

Information for the Writer of Mary Russell Fan Fiction

Or What Every Writer needs to know about the world of Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes as written by Laurie R. King in what is known as *The Kanon*

By: Alice "...the girl with the strawberry curls"

****Spoiler Alert:** *This document covers all nine of the Russell books currently in print, and discloses information from the latest memoir, "The Language of Bees."*

The Kanon

BEEK – The Beekeeper’s Apprentice

MREG – A Monstrous Regiment of Women

LETT – A Letter of Mary

MOOR – The Moor

OJER – O Jerusalem

JUST – Justice Hall

GAME – The Game

LOCK – Locked Rooms

LANG – The Language of Bees

GOTH – The God of the Hive

Please note any references to the stories about Sherlock Holmes published by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (known as The Canon) will be in italics.

The Time-line of the Books

BEEK – Early April 1915 to August of 1919 when Holmes invites the recovering Russell to accompany him to France and Italy for six weeks, to return before the beginning of the Michaelmas Term in Oxford (late Sept.)

MREG – December 26, 1920 to February 6, 1921 although the postscript takes us six to eight weeks later, and then several months after that with two conversations.

LETT – August 14, 1923 to September 8, 1923

MOOR – No specific dates given but soon after LETT ends, so sometime the end of September or early October 1923 to early November 1923. We know that Russell and Holmes arrived back at the cottage on Nov. 5, 1923.

OJER – From the final week of December 1918 until approx. the beginning of Feb. 1919

JUST – Guy Fawkes Day, November 5, 1923 to December 21, 1923 (The epilogue takes place Dec. 26, 1923)

GAME – January 1, 1924 to approximately early March 1924 (there are no specific dates for the ending)

LOCK – Picks up after three weeks in Japan in May 1924 then perhaps into very early June 1924

LANG – August 10, 1924 to August 30, 1924

GOTH – August 30, 1924 to Sept. 9, 1924 (The Epilogue concludes on Oct. 31, 1924)

A History of Mary Russell

Parents: Judith Klein Russell and Charles David Russell

Judith Klein Russell was (as Holmes described) one generation away from a Cockney Jew, and the granddaughter of a Rabbi. Her marriage to Charles Russell, a gentile, caused a break from her family, which was only mended after Mary's birth. Judith's father gave her a mezuzah as an overture of reconciliation, but the estrangement was never completely healed because the father died soon after that. Judith taught her children Mary and Levi, to read and speak Hebrew and started them studying the Old Testament at a young age. She owned a small farm in Sussex on the southern downs, which she, her husband and children used as a summer home, but it was never explained how one sister owned a farm and the other sister, the aunt who would later become Mary Russell's guardian, had no property when she came to live in Sussex. The aunt had sufficient funds to purchase her own terrace house when she departs the farm at Russell's majority (the implication being that she has stolen the money from Mary). It is inferred that the farm had been in the Klein family for a long time, as Patrick Mason (the farm manager) had run with Judith as a child. Why the one daughter was given the property remains a mystery.

Charles David Russell was the son of a wealthy family who were established in Boston before coming to California to further their fortune. His father returned to Boston years later at the behest of his wife, Charles' mother, but Charles refused to leave California after he finished university. He remained and built a cabin (the Lodge) in the mountains on a lake, south of San Francisco. Eventually his family relented and allowed him to live in the family home in Pacific Heights, and to run the family business interests in California. We know of no siblings for Charles Russell.

Charles and Judith met in the British Museum in the spring of 1885 and married a year later, the summer of 1896, over the objections of both families. They came to San Francisco to live in 1897 and stayed until they went to England in 1899 for the birth of their first child – Mary.

Mary Judith Russell was born January 2, 1900 in London, England. Although Mary's parents were living in San Francisco at the time Judith conceived, she wished to go back to England for the birth of her child. The Russell's stayed there until May of 1901 when they returned to San Francisco.

When Judith again found herself pregnant, in the summer of 1904, she returned with Mary to England to await the birth of her second child, a boy Levi, born Feb. of 1905. They returned to California in Sept. 1905 and stayed until June of 1906 months after the great earthquake (April 18, 1906) and the Robert Greenfield incident (See LOCK). When Judith discovered this possible threat to her children she returned to England with both children and Charles came over for half of each year, to spend time with his family.

Finally the whole family returned to live together in San Francisco in the summer of 1912. In the fall of 1914 Charles was preparing to enter military service to join the U.S. Intelligence branch, as war had broken out in Europe months before. The U.S. did not enter WWI until April 1917, but Charles was a man who thought he could help, so he volunteered. He knew the war was not going to be a short one, and thinking England might not be safe, he was sending his wife and children to Boston to stay with his family while he was away. He wanted to visit his beloved Lodge one last time before the family was parted, and convinced his wife that the entire family should accompany him south of San Francisco to the cabin by the lake. Charles had built the Lodge himself and it had been a place of peace and harmony for the family. It was during that journey south, on Oct. 3, 1914, that Charles, Judith and Levi were killed in a motorcar accident along the cliffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean (later it was discovered it was not an accident see LOCK). Mary was thrown clear of the car before it went over the cliff and burst into flames, but suffered severe injuries that kept her in hospital for weeks. Injured, orphaned and feeling guilty for surviving what she perceived as an accident that was entirely her fault (thinking her bickering with her brother distracted her father), Mary had a nervous breakdown, which required her to become the patient of a psychotherapist, Dr. Leah Ginsberg, who used several techniques while treating Mary, including hypnosis. In the early weeks of 1915 Mary recovered sufficiently to be sent back to England to her mother's sister (her aunt is so hated Mary never names her) who was to be her guardian until her 21st birthday. Mary made it a requirement of her returning to England and accepting the guardianship of her aunt that they live at the Sussex farm that had been her family summer home and held happy memories for her.

Mary stumbled across Sherlock Holmes on the Sussex downs in early April 1915. At their first meeting Holmes detected a solid base of London in her speech with an underlay of California. Later he comments, "to American ears she speaks with a pure English accent" (LOCK). Holmes was amazed to find, in a young girl, the combination of a keen intellect coupled with the ability to observe and deduce (a combination he had sought for many years), and was immediately taken with the trouser dressed girl with her hair in plaits.

Mary Russell spent more time in England than in the States before she was orphaned. She would have had dual citizenship with her father being American, but she was born in England and spent the majority of her childhood there.

Other than the aunt, the only other relatives mentioned in Kanon were cousins; one was left the aunt's terrace house when she died. In OJER Mary learns of the death of Theodore Roosevelt and mentions he was "a sort of distant cousin of my American father's family," and mentions in JUST that "the elves" were some sort of distant cousins of her mother's.

Mary was left her mother's diamond earrings, an emerald necklace and the farm in Sussex. She also came into a large fortune from her parents' estate when she turned 21. This consisted of "pounds, dollars, and francs, three houses, two factories, and a ranch in California" as she listed her birthday gifts in MREG.

Mary Russell says she only has two natural talents, the ability to throw anything accurately with her left hand, and an ear for languages. Her languages include, Hebrew, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Latin, Greek, Arabic, Hindi, and she reads hieroglyphics and Coptic. We also learn in BEEK that she can juggle and in MOOR that she can play the tin whistle. She took lessons in the martial arts while in Oxford (this was mentioned in MREG and LOCK). Holmes arranged said lessons.

She is 5' 7 ½ inches tall when she meets Holmes in April 1915 and grew to a final height of 5'11". Mary has a slender build, quite fashionable for the 1920s, is left-handed with waist length blond (sometimes referred to as strawberry blond see OJER) hair – until she cuts it in GAME. Her eyes are blue and weak from reading, so she wears spectacles. She changed the frames to suit her persona, her disguise. In BEEK she darkens the rims with brown fingernail enamel and in LETT she switches to horn-rimmed frames, as they were more appropriate for Mary Small. After her marriage she wears a gold band on the ring finger of her right hand “where it might be taken for a wedding band in the style of certain European communities, or for a memento.” (MOOR)

Mary Russell has multiple scars on her body. Many of which are from the motor accident that killed her family. These are mentioned in BEEK and her hands are described in LETT. By Holmes' observations, when they first meet, she had scar tissue on her throat, scalp and right hand. She describes her hands as practical. The outer two fingers of her right hand are slightly twisted and there is “a thin white scar almost invisible at their base, near the palm” Later she would also acquire several bullet wound scars. Two are raised welts, one at the back of her neck on the left, and at her clavicle on her right shoulder. The bullet that caused both these scars was fired by Patricia Donleavy and almost cost Russell her life. The bullet passed through Russell's neck and shattered the clavicle on the right side as it exited her to enter Patricia Donleavy killing Moriarty's daughter who has sought her revenge on Sherlock Holmes. Miss Donleavy also nicked Russell's right arm with a shot that was strictly to show Holmes just how serious she was. This may or may not have left a scar. Patricia Donleavy almost succeeded in killing the great detective and his partner, Mary Russell (BEEK). Russell's right shoulder aches in the cold or when Mary works too long at her books. She relates that pieces of bone were still working their way out of the wound years later. She may also have a very thin scar on her left wrist and forearm from a knife wound she sustained protecting Margery Childe from a knife wielding assassin. There might also be a scar from a knife wound on the back of her wrist (it never says which one, but she was trying to extricate her knife from a boot, so it is a good guess that it was her left) where Plumbury cut her while trying to escape from the upper room of the Church Of The Holy Sepulcher in OJER.

Mary Russell matriculated to Oxford University in the fall of 1917 to start her studies in Theology and Chemistry. She received her degrees, double firsts, in June of 1920. She continues at Oxford tutoring and doing research. The first paper she presented was on the Feminine Divine and was written with another tutor, a man she called Duncan. They were to present the paper on January 28, 1921 but Russell was being held captive (MREG) so that presentation might not have taken place until later in February or in March 1921.

By the time of MOOR (Oct 1923) Mary Russell has finished the first draft of a book on Sophia, or wisdom.

As listed on Mary Russell's calling card (a copy may be obtained by writing to Laurie King at the address provided on her web page www.laurierking.com) sometime later (it hasn't been noted in Kanon) Mary Russell received a D. Phil (Ph.D.) from Oxford. After her majority Russell's clothing is bespoke (handmade) by a married couple, Jewish tailors, (her mother's tailors and "cousins or something") who were so well known that Lady Phillida in JUST was amazed that someone of Russell's ilk would be taken on by them (she thinks Russell a blue stocking married to a beekeeper). Russell refers to her tailors as "a pair of elves" or "Mrs. Elf and Mr. Elf."

Mary Russell tells us in MREG that "the year before" she had joined a London club called the Vicissitude (so sometime in 1920 or late 1919). Soon after her 21st birthday she also took a flat in Bloomsbury, just off Great Ormond Street, and near the underground station at Russell Square (a fashionable part of London, but not as upscale as Mayfair or Belgravia) a place where she could bring anyone no matter his or her station. The flat was on the fourth story of the new sleek building -- six large rooms and a kitchen. There is a doorman on the building. She engaged servant's quarters in the basement and hired the Quimby's as butler/driver and maid/cook, she calls them "Q and Mrs. Q." The flat's six rooms, besides the kitchen, must include a sitting room, two bedrooms and bathrooms and a dining room. After Holmes rescued Russell from the cellar, he brings her back to this flat and that is where she recuperates from the heroin that had been pumped into her during her kidnapping. Later he forced his way into her bedroom and chivvied her into walking Regents Park until she was ready to talk and to take some food. Together they formulated a plan to break into the New Temple in God and uncover the connection between Russell's kidnapper and Margery Childe. Holmes stayed the night in the guest room and borrowed a dressing gown from Mr. Quimby (telling the couple he was Russell's bodyguard). In later books Russell still has the flat, but mentions they (The Q's and Russell) should find something more suited to her tastes, a house or flat bigger with quarters for the Q's. She asks Q to contact Freddy Bell (who works for her solicitors Gibson, Arbuthnot, Meyer, and Perowne) who helped her find the current flat, saying they would probably decorate it themselves. However that was in JUST and then weeks later Russell and Holmes were unexpectedly off to India (GAME) and California (LOCK) immediately thereafter. Then in LANG (when they return to Britain) the reader is told that Russell has let the flat go and the Q's have retired, full stop. No more said, no new house or quarters, just Mycroft's flat as a base while in London, or Russell's club The Vicissitude.

The last date in MREG is February 6th the date of the proposal. In England a fifteen day waiting period was required for a civil ceremony (I don't believe they would have posted bans and married in a church, which also required a waiting period) with a marriage by license. If they applied for the license on the 7th – that being a Monday – the earliest they could have married would have been on February 22 or 23, 1921. Weeks later Russell tells Ronnie Beaconsfield that she hopes she and Miles will not follow her “rude example and stage a secret elopement.” This term “secret elopement” can be construed to mean they did not post bans, then waited and marry in a church (which would be highly unlikely as Russell considers herself a Jew and Holmes is not, so no ceremony in a Temple either), but took out a license, waited the prescribed period and went to a Register Office to be married, hence secret, as in no public notice was made, no public ceremony.

A Brief History of Sherlock Holmes

Laurie R. King has taken the point of view (and made her case in an essay that was on her Home page www.laurierking.com) that Sherlock Holmes was 54 when he first meets Mary Russell on the Sussex downs. He had retired to keep bees when his rheumatism became too painful in the damp of the fogs and winters in London. He was bored with life, and had been retired for twelve years when Russell met him in 1915. He had come out of his retirement for a period from 1912 to 1914 to pursue the German spy Von Bork in the tale Dr. Watson called *His Last Bow* which had Holmes “undercover” in America as an automotive mechanic and lasted two years. It concluded in August 1914 and during the case Holmes wore a goatee, as noted by Mary Russell upon their first meeting “I see a vague area of pale skin on your chin, which shows that some time last summer you had a goatee, since shaven off.” BEEK.

Holmes is a bit over six feet tall and very thin and wiry in his build. He has striking grey eyes that appear hooded and a sharp nose. His hands are elegant, long bony fingers, which are called “clever,” “artistic,” and “nervous.” Holmes sometimes experiences his surroundings through his fingertips. His hearing is very acute. Holmes' people were country squires from Yorkshire, his grandmother the sister of Vernet, the French artist. He has one sibling, Mycroft Holmes seven years his senior. It was revealed during the case that took Russell and Holmes to Dartmoor (MOOR) that The Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould was Sherlock Holmes' godfather. This revelation astounded Russell, and had been forgotten completely by Holmes.

His Sussex cottage is on the southern slopes of the downs looking out to the channel, and is approximately five miles from Eastbourne the nearest train station. It is also approximately six miles from Mary Russell's farm to Holmes' cottage. Both the cottage and the farm are near a small-unnamed village; Eastbourne and Lewes are the nearest towns.

Holmes was presented with an emerald stickpin or tiepin by Queen Victoria in appreciation of his work on the Bruce-Partington plans case (*The Adventure of The Bruce-Partington Plans*). This stickpin appears in GAME.

He had more than enough money to retire and no longer has a need to collect a fee for his services. He keeps at least three, possibly more, bolt-holes (secret rooms with supplies for disguise, and weapons, also sufficient food and reading material so one could hide out for a few days if needed) in London. Patricia Donleavy (BEEK) tells Holmes she found three but suspected there was another.

In MREG Russell, wanting to divert his attention, mentions Holmes' lost son when she becomes uncomfortable in the bolt-hole, then immediately regrets the action. Later in the same book Russell is in a library with Miles Fitzwarren and takes note of his nervous hands and how they reminded her of Holmes and of "Holmes' lovely lost son" then we never hear of this son again, until LANG.

It is revealed in LANG that Sherlock Holmes had a liaison with Irene Adler ("The Woman" from *A Scandal In Bohemia*) during the period – which he refers to as "when I was dead" – after Reichenbach Falls when he survived and disappeared after killing professor Moriarty (See *The Adventure of the Final Problem*). After a time together Irene, finding herself pregnant, lied to Holmes by saying she was returning to America. She then sent him away, never telling him he had left her with child. After their son, Damian, was born (in the little town of Ste Chapelle, thirty miles south of Paris), Irene contacted Mycroft and told him of the child (as insurance that Damian might be looked after if she should die) and extracted a promise that Mycroft would never tell Holmes about the boy while she lived, and "thereafter not until such time as I (Mycroft) deemed it necessary." (LANG) Irene was concerned that the knowledge would distract Holmes. Mycroft admits he almost told Holmes after her death in 1912, but one case after another kept Holmes busy. As Mycroft puts it in his revealing letter of Aug. 1919, "There seemed no time when you were immune from distraction." Holmes only learned of the existence of his son when Mycroft wrote him a letter to inform his brother that he was not only a father, but that his son was a troubled young man, a soldier in WWI, who was severely wounded, addicted to drugs, and currently under arrest in France for murder. All this news came as Russell was recovering, both mentally and physically, from the gunshot wounds inflicted by Patricia Donleavy. Holmes invites Russell to join him on a trip to France and Italy at the end of BEEK. In France he shares the news of Damian's existence and his circumstance, and takes Russell with him when he meets his son for the first time. That was in Aug. 1919. The case against Damian fell apart when the one witness was found to be lying, and Damian was released. Holmes wanted to take his son to England, but an older woman, Mme Longchamps, who had been a friend of Damian's for some time, and who owned a gallery where his paintings were sold, convinced Holmes that Damian would be better off in her care, so he left Damian in France. Holmes had word of his son in Dec. 1919 by way of a letter from the Mme Longchamps. She died of influenza soon afterwards, and from then until Aug. 1924 (LANG) Holmes has no word from, or about his son, and as he puts it when they do meet again, "God, boy, I thought you were dead."

Sherlock Holmes is a master of disguise and taught this skill to Mary Russell. He is an accomplished boxer, fences, played singlestick, is a good shot with a pistol, and is trained in a form of self-defense called *baritsu*. We learn he is proficient at arranging woman's hair (GAME) but Russell does not know where he learnt the skill. Holmes is also a skilled magician (GAME).

Holmes loves music, particularly opera and is fond of Wagner and the Italian operas. He plays the violin with skill. His instrument is a Stradivarius pick up in a pawnshop for a ridiculously low price when Holmes was just starting his career as a consulting detective (See *The Adventure of the Cardboard Box*).

We know Holmes speaks fluent French, Arabic, Hindi, also German and was taught Latin and Greek as part of his schooling, but professes to have forgotten the Greek (LETT). He is the only other person that can read the boustrophedonic code that Russell uses as shorthand, but even he finds it rough going.

The Cottage

Holmes' cottage, or Villa, has flint walls and a red tile roof. It is a two-story building. There is a gravel driveway off the country lane and a circular drive by the front door. The ground floor (the British call the 1st floor the ground floor and the second story the 1st floor) consists of a main room (originally two rooms, now one) that has a huge stone fireplace at one end, a bay window with a round table on the south side along with French doors that open out onto an expanse of flagstone or terrace that is sheltered on one side by a glass conservatory that grew off the kitchen. In BEEK there is an observation hive also on the south wall, but it is never mentioned again and was perhaps destroyed and not rebuilt after the bomb blast from the beehive bomb set by Donleavy's bomber Dickerson took out all the glass on the south side of the building.

The main room when Russell first saw it had a sofa, two wing chairs, and a frayed basket chair around the fireplace. A work desk is beneath a leaded, diamond-paned window on the west wall of the cottage and where I think the front door is also. The walls of this room were lined with bookshelves and cupboards. There is a telephone on a table in the main room or entryway from the front door.

The kitchen is off this main room and has a slate floor. It has a back door and a scullery off it where a water pump is used to draw water into a sink where dishes would be washed. There is also a "kitchen fire" where Russell could toast muffins but there is only the one mention in MREG so it might be a fireplace in the kitchen or might be a stove that takes firewood.

In LANG there is a mention of a library on the ground floor. Russell searches it looking for first, Damian's pictures, and then later Holmes case file on his son.

Mrs. Hudson's (who had come from London with Holmes when he retired to Sussex) rooms are also on this floor and one would assume she had a bath of her own, although nothing has been said in Kanon about Mrs. Hudson's room. In LANG we learn that there is a guest suite, a bedroom and bath on the ground floor. Damian spends at least one night in these quarters before disappearing with Holmes.

The second story or 1st floor has a long corridor with the laboratory at one end. There are no windows in the laboratory, and in LANG we learn it has a sofa, something not mentioned in BEEK when Russell struggles with Patricia Donleavy (it would seem there wouldn't be room for that struggle and a sofa, so perhaps it was added later). Holmes' bedroom and one guest room are also off this corridor as is one bath, and as described in LANG a cupboard space that is locked, referred to as Holmes' lumber-room.

The cottage has electric lights run by batteries so they would not be kept on long. Outside the French doors, and beyond the terrace of flagstones that is immediately outside the great room, is another area with chairs under a copper beech tree. It has a garden nearby. From this location one can look toward the Channel, over a small orchard that is situated in a hollow. The beehives are in this orchard.

The downs that separate the cottage grounds from the sea would be undulating hills of grasslands. The downs would end abruptly at the cliffs above the Channel. These cliffs would be steep but there is a pathway down to the shale beach where Russell and Holmes swim in the cold water of the English Channel. Holmes said he didn't mind climbing the cliff in the dark in LETT so it is negotiable even without light. The cliffs are made of chalk and are stark white, the shoreline is not sand, but shale and rocks.

After their marriage Holmes and Russell would live in the cottage. It had become Russell's emotional home during the years she spent as first Holmes' apprentice, then associate, and finally partner and wife.

Mycroft's Rooms

Mycroft Holmes is the elder brother of Sherlock Holmes (seven years the elder). In Canon (the stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) he first appears in the story called *The Greek Interpreter* (*GREE*) and is described as having a greater facility at observation and deduction than Holmes, while in Kanon we meet him in BEEK. He is a large man, corpulent, and has the same grey eyes as his younger brother. He is very fond of food, and has a housekeeper named Mrs. Cowper, someone with whom his personal secrets could be trusted. She is an excellent cook and on hand ready to produce meals at odd hours.

In GOTH we learn of Mycroft's secretary Richard Sosa, a weedy man who is totally loyal to his superior. Sosa has been at Mycroft's right hand for twenty-six years and knows more than a few secrets himself, and was instrumental in rescuing the captive Mycroft, although it was almost more than his nerves could take.

Mycroft is lazy, or at the least, of a sedentary nature; he prefers facts to be brought to him. After his heart attack in Dec. 1923 (GAME) he does undertake a regime of exercise and diet to regain his health. When Russell sees him in Aug. 1924 he has lost a considerable amount of weight and has taken to walking the nearby park after his luncheon. In GOTH all the pieces of Mycroft's long term planning (which included this weight loss) are revealed along with the existence of a "relationship" with Sophy Melas (*nee Sophy Kratides from GREE*) that included Mycroft having access to the flat directly above his (*Mr. Melas' flat as mentioned in GREE*) via a ladder in the former dumbwaiter shaft that serviced both flats. Mycroft had made these changes to his flat at the same time as he "updated" his kitchen, and built the escape tunnels (see below).

Mycroft is a spymaster and collects data from around the world; his memory for information is prodigious. His sphere of influence is limitless and often "is the British government." Mycroft is able to sort out the patterns from this data and order the appropriate actions. He sends his brother Sherlock and later Russell off on little tasks for him and the Empire. He has his routine and rarely varies it, his rooms are on Pall Mall Street just around the corner from Whitehall where his offices are located, and the Diogenes Club (a gentleman's club for the most unclubable men in London – no one speaks to anyone else except in the "Strangers Rooms" where it is permissible to speak. Mycroft is a founder of this club) is opposite his rooms.

Mycroft's rooms are in a building of several stories. There is a doorman outside and inside a lift (elevator) and a staircase. Mycroft's door has a secret peep-hole in the center of the knocker, so he might see his visitor before opening the door. Once inside one would face the sitting room with large windows on the opposite wall overlooking the street. Just inside the door might be a small vestibule, but this is not really explained in Kanon. Once inside the sitting room there would be a dining room off to one side connected by an opening with perhaps pocket doors, as would be the architecture of the period. The dining room would have a sideboard, a large dining table with chairs, and a service lift to the kitchen (JUST). In LANG we learn of a kitchen in Mycroft's flat, but it isn't really explained where in the flat this kitchen exists, other than Russell leaves the sitting room to make coffee in the kitchen, so it is reasonable to assume it is connected to the dining room in some way.

The sitting room has a fireplace with a sofa and several chairs around it. One of the chairs is oversized and is large enough to accommodate Russell and Holmes sitting in it together. Presumably this chair was custom built for Mycroft's bulk. There is a desk with a telephone and a drinks cabinet in this room. Off this sitting room, and in the opposite direction from the dining room would be a hallway with Mycroft's bedroom possibly at the end. He has a separate bathroom that by JUST has a shower bath in it.

Additionally, there are two rooms, all with windows overlooking the street, off this hallway, and possibly two more bathrooms. One of these rooms is a guest bedroom and bath that is used by Holmes and then by Russell and Holmes after their marriage. The other is a smaller room with a daybed, but when Mycroft shows this room to Mary Russell in BEEK he says "and the bath and such are through here." This leads me to

believe either the two guestrooms share a bath, or each has its own bath. Three bathrooms in a three bedroom flat would be quite a few for the age of the building, but Mycroft was important and had funds, so it is a possibility. In LANG we are told there is also a study down this hall and in this room Mycroft has installed two secret passages behind bookcases as emergency exits from his building. One tunnel exits out onto St. James Square and the other into Angel Court. In BEEK Russell and Holmes had to don disguises to leave unobserved, so Mycroft put in the secret passages to make it easier if the street is watched, as it was in LANG.

Other Recurring Characters

Mrs. Hudson – Some think she is the Martha in *His Last Bow*, but it is never really detailed. In Kanon her name is Clara (see telegram in LOCK). She is the long-suffering landlady of the Baker St. days (“the worst tenant in London” is her description of Holmes in Canon) who follows Holmes into retirement to continue as his housekeeper in Sussex (See *The Adventure of the Lion’s Mane*). She is a widow with one son (who immigrated to Australia and is married). She became a mother of sorts to Russell teaching her things a girl should know about her body, cooking (although Russell is a terrible cook), sewing, knitting, and gardening. She also taught Russell how to do her long hair, and took her to a dressmaker and hairdresser in London from her eighteenth birthday. Her presence in the cottage made it possible for Holmes and Russell to spend considerable time together in the cottage before their marriage.

Dr. John H. Watson – Although Watson only appears in BEEK and MREG, he is mentioned as being on vacation in Egypt in JUST, heard through his telegram in LOCK, and there is a mention of a post card in LANG. Watson was Holmes' flat-mate in the Baker St. days, also his chronicler and remains his dearest friend. Watson’s stories have made Holmes world-famous, a fact about which Holmes is somewhat ambivalent. Holmes still calls upon him when he needs reliable help, such as guarding Ronnie Beaconsfield in the hospital after her accident in the train station in MREG. Watson becomes part of Russell’s adopted family, her “Uncle John.” It is Watson who tells Russell, upon first meeting her, that Holmes had described her as “lovely.” He has a big enough heart that he takes Russell as a beloved “niece” and is not jealous that she has replaced him as Holmes’ assistant.

Chief Inspector John Lestrade – When we first meet Lestrade in BEEK (Dec. 1918) he is only an Inspector by LETT (Aug. 1923) he is a Chief Inspector. Russell describes him as being a small wiry man of about thirty-five on their first meeting. Later she says he has a face like a ferret, and always appears rumpled, his suits ill fitting.

He is the son of G. Lestrade from the Baker Street days (Canon) and knew Holmes before the meeting in BEEK. He later tells Russell, in LETT, of his regard for Mr. Holmes and he seems to know Mycroft. He is invited to dinner at Mycroft’s in LETT and Russell asks him if he remembers where Mycroft lives. In LANG, frustrated by Mycroft’s evasion of his questions and the fact Holmes and Russell have been messing in the

Yolanda Adler case (Lestrade does not know Damian is Holmes' son) he takes the extraordinary action of having arrest warrants issued for them. Lestrade later raids Mycroft's flat looking for all the fugitives – Damian, Holmes and Russell. We learn in GOTH that someone high up in the government manipulated Lestrade into this action. Lestrade figures out he was duped and withdraws the arrest warrants against Russell and Holmes, and tried to contact them. We also learn in GOTH that Lestrade is married and has a young daughter.

Patrick Mason – The farm manager for Mary Russell's farm. A man described by Russell as “a large, slow-moving, phlegmatic Sussex farmer of fifty-two (June 1918) with hands like something grown from the earth and a nose that changed directions three times.” He lives in a two-story house on the farm grounds. He knew Judith Klein as a child (was three years older) and was possibly in love with her. He was widowed and raised six children by himself, the salary as farm manager allowed him to keep the family intact. The day his youngest turned eighteen he divided his land and came to live on Mary's farm. He calls Mary Russell, Miss Mary. He is keeping company with Tilly Whiteneck who is the owner of The Monk's Tun, an inn on the road between Eastbourne to Lewes, and the aunt of Lulu Mrs. Hudson's young helper who appears in LANG. Patrick is stolid, solid and utterly devoted to Miss Mary and to her land.

Old Will – The gardener and handyman of sorts at Holmes' cottage. He was a spy for the Crown before he retired.

Ronnie Beaconsfield – Lady Veronica Beaconsfield is one of the first friends Russell makes in Oxford (BEEK). She was the person who introduced Russell to The New Temple In God and Margery Childe (MREG) and asked her help to rehabilitate her drug addicted former fiancé Miles Fitzwarren. It is Holmes who ultimately takes on this task and stays with the young man as he becomes clean. Miles and Ronnie married after Holmes and Russell (June 1921). A sniper's bullet kills Miles in 1924, leaving Ronnie with a son to care for as a widow. In LANG Russell receives a letter from Ronnie about the birth of her son, this was Aug. 1924, so Miles was killed sometime after that.

Mahmoud and Ali Hazr (OJER) AKA William Maurice Hughenfort and Alistair Gordon St John Hughenfort (JUST) – are cousins who are taken as brothers in Palestine where they travel on foot across the small country as a scribe and his brother, their ears constantly to the ground for word of anything that might be of use to the military spymaster Joshua or for Mycroft Holmes. They are spies for the Crown. In England they are Marsh and Ali, with Marsh the brother of a Duke and Ali his cousin. They had spent twenty years in Palestine before coming home in 1923 because the old Duke – Marsh's brother – had died without an heir, and Marsh was to become the next Duke. Russell and Holmes were asked to help solve the mystery regarding the former Duke's son Gabriel's death during WWI. (JUST)

The Reverend Sabine Baring-Gould – As described in the Editor's Postscript in MOOR “was most emphatically a real person, a true and unexpected British eccentric: an academic romancer, a gullible skeptic, a man both cold and passionate.” He summoned

Holmes to Dartmoor to investigate problems on his beloved moor, was Holmes' local contact during the Hound of the Baskervilles case, and, it was revealed he was Sherlock Holmes' godfather. He figures very prominently in MOOR, and his death (Jan 2, 1924) was noted in GAME.

Damian Adler -- Born Sept. 9, 1894 to Irene Adler Norton – the product of a liaison between that lady (whom Holmes had met during the case known as *A Scandal in Bohemia* and referred to as “The Woman,” and then later sought out during his hiatus after the Reichenbach Falls) and Sherlock Holmes.

Damian knew who his father was by 1913 because he painted a scene depicting Sussex with an English teapot in the foreground. The teapot was, as Russell put it, “an object from a madman's nightmare” painted so that it was half ordinary teapot and half grotesque honeybee with a menacing stinger for a handle. Whether his mother told him or he discovered who his father was on his own in some other manner is not known.

After the death of Irene Adler, in June 1912, Mycroft Holmes continued to keep the secret of Damian's existence from his brother. Damian, born and raised in France, went to university then joined the French forces at the outbreak of the war in 1914. He rose to the rank of Captain by 1917 and was blown up in the trenches early in 1918. He sustained a severe head injury and a cracked pelvis and after being unconscious for a week, he slowly recovered and was eventually invalided out in 1918. This took place when he was arrested (but never formally charged) for the beating death of another officer. Ten days after the incident Damian was admitted to a mental hospital. Damian and the other officer had been drunk, the other man strong and whole, Damian an injured war hero, so Damian was deemed to be shell-shocked and placed in the institution. It was there that Damian embraced the ideals of the surrealists, both in his paintings and in his life. We know that by August 1919 Damian was out of the asylum and addicted to drugs. He was also arrested that August for the murder of a drugs seller. Damian had been one of the dead man's customers and had been in an argument that led to a fistfight. Two days later the man was found unconscious and bleeding from a head wound. He died in hospital and a witness came forward saying Damian was the murder. This is when Mycroft wrote a letter to his brother explaining the existence of his son and why Holmes had not been informed. With a murder charge hanging over the young man, Mycroft had already taken action by hiring one of the best criminal *avocats* to represent Damian, who was being held in a jail in Ste Chapelle, the town where he had been born. Holmes decided to take Russell, who was just making a recovery from both physical and psychological wounds from the Donleavy case. Not wanting to leave her behind, Sherlock asked her to accompany him to France (see end of BEEK) and once there he handed Russell Mycroft's letter. The next day they met with the *avocat* and Holmes met his son for the first time. Damian was sullen and did not want to see his father; it was not a warm first meeting. Holmes also met Damian's friend Mme Longchamps, a gallery owner who had known Damian since before the war and someone who had care for and about him since his mother's death. She had sold many of his paintings and taken him in when he was clean of drugs and wished a fresh start. When Damian was released from jail (gaol), because the witness was proved to have fabricated his story, Mme Longchamps cautioned

Holmes not to try to take the boy with him, but to leave him in her care. Holmes agreed given Damian's animosity against him. After Christmas 1919 Mme Longchamps dies of influenza, and Damian feels guilty over her death because she got out of a sick bed to collect him after one of his drug binges. He stayed for her funeral then walked away. In fact he took a train to Marseilles and signed on as a deck hand on a ship in that port. He had no papers, no suitcase, just his wits and youthful strength, he was 25 years of age. He stayed on the ship for over six months, growing stronger and stronger in his sobriety. In Shanghai he left the ship and decided to stay. It was there that he met Yolanda, who was later to become his wife. She helped him to sell his paintings and he became the darling of the art community in that city. He painted under the *nom de plume* "The Addler," and became quite famous as a painter in the Surrealist movement. He and Yolanda had a child, Estelle, and eventually it was Yolanda who talked Damian into leaving Shanghai and moving to England, to further his career. The rationale was that Yolanda already knew English and didn't wish to learn another language. Also, because Irene had become a British citizen he was entitled to claim it also. It is implied that Uncle Mycroft helped along the process of obtaining the British passports for Damian and his wife and child. Yolanda and Damian did marry to make it easier to obtain the passports, although neither of them believed in the institution of marriage. They embraced the Bohemian lifestyle. Damian lied to his father when he said that he and the family had arrived in England about the time Holmes and Russell were on a boat to India. In fact he arrived before Christmas 1923, but put off seeing his father, and, in fact, had a book of his drawings bound as a mocking present, a way of showing Sherlock Holmes what he missed and the pain he caused. The book was not given to Holmes and was found later in the house Damian had purchased in Chelsea, an anything but Bohemian neighborhood. Russell found the price of The Addler's paintings answered the question of why the upscale location – the Adler's had money. Damian was doing very well with his paintings. In August 1924 Damian Adler swallowed his pride and came to Sussex for the express purpose of asking his father's help in tracking down his wife (Yolanda) and child (Estelle) who had been missing for a few days. (LANG)

Yolanda Chin Hayden Adler – Born 1893 Fung Shian District. When she was thirteen or fourteen she came to Shanghai and worked at a brothel as a prostitute, and as Damian put it she lived a wild life drinking and doing drugs. That is, until she asked missionaries to save her. This started her lifelong obsession with religions, all religions. It may also have been when she met Rev. Hayden, a charismatic religious leader (not ordained) who married Yolanda Nov. 21, 1912. She was 19 but put her age as 16 on the wedding license. This speaks to Hayden's character, that he would marry a 16 year old. They had a child, Dorothy, born in 1913. This child was sent to Yolanda's parents for them to rear. Yolanda and Hayden separated in March of 1917 and divorced in 1920 the same year Damian Adler arrived in Shanghai. When she met Damian she took over his life, selling his paintings, managing his money and when it was decided that they would leave Shanghai for England, she and Damian marry so he might get a passport for Yolanda and their child Estelle, born in early 1921. By all reports Yolanda was a good mother, but taken to flights of fancy regarding her involvement in religions. She would go off on adventures, but Damian was happy to look after his daughter, and they employed a maid. (LANG)

Estelle Adler – Daughter of Damian Adler and Yolanda Chin Hayden Adler, born in early 1921 (no date is given but she is approximately 3 ½ in Aug. 1924 when Sherlock Holmes learns of her existence). She is “preternaturally clever” to quote Russell, and has the grey eyes of her father, her grandfather and her uncle Mycroft. There is no denying she is a Holmes. Using the age of 3 ½ in Aug. 1924, we can extrapolate that she was born in Feb. of 1921, just 8 or 9 months after Damian arrives in Shanghai. Damian must have “taken up” with Yolanda immediately after he arrived in that city. (LANG)



Now, a few words about writing in the style of Laurie R. King and the Kanon.

It is a very formal English, full of long compound sentences and descriptive language, using a lush and somewhat formal and upper class vocabulary. The dialogue of the upper class, well educated, characters would contain few contractions. As the social classes descend more contractions and more colloquial language should be used. There are many accents in England. You can find on-line translators for several dialects, such as Cockney, Cornish, Yorkshire or any number of others.

There is U language and Non-U language, meaning upper class and non-upper class.

Here is a link to an informative article about this.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U_and_non-U_English (there are underlines _ between U_and_non-U)

Russell would most definitely use U language unless she was in disguise. Holmes is more bohemian, more eclectic, and wouldn't be as careful unless he was “using his most plummiest of tones” to put someone in their place.

Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes are very private people and most definitely are not an effusive couple in public. They do not use affectionate language with each other. If Holmes calls Russell *my dear* in public it is to put her on guard (GAME), not to convey his affection. Although he has used the term “Russell, my dear” in the privacy of their bedchamber in LETT when he was trying to convince her to do something he knew she would not want to do. He used the term again in JUST when he was trying to convince her to make the trip to Canada to track down Gabriel's Helene. Both times she was put on her guard by this affectionate language. Kanon is written with very subtle references to their love for one another. The only exception to this is the dock scene in MREG, but they were both in a highly emotional state (Russell is recovering from her abduction and drug addiction and had thought Holmes dead, and Holmes was just blown up and burnt), and they were not reacting as they normally would.

An example of the way Kanon portrays their love would be at the end of MOOR when Holmes is upset that Ketteridge died in the bog while he had to watch, held at bay by Ketteridge's gun. Russell picks up his torch and handed it to him, and allowed her

fingers to briefly rest on the back of his neck. Thus she signals her support and understanding, she most emphatically doesn't fling herself into his arms whispering words of undying affection and sorrow that he had once again lost a villain to the moor.

In LETT Holmes admits he is concerned about Russell going into the household of Colonel Edwards and goes so far as to admit his heart is controlling his feelings in this matter (the chair scene). This is also where Russell tells us that Holmes is "as energetic and scrupulously attentive to detail in the physical aspects of marriage as ever he was in an investigation or laboratory experiment but was not otherwise a man demonstrative of his affections." In LOCK Russell states that she was "well matched mentally and...well suited physically, to a man who interested my intellect, challenged my spirit and roused my passions." Theirs is not a marriage of convenience, but they keep their private lives very private. Remember the books are written as memoirs, and someone as private as Mary Russell would be very circumspect about detailing intimate moments with her husband.

The British spelling is always used in Kanon. For example kerb instead of curb, neighbour instead of neighbor or grey instead of gray. To make this easier when you are starting I suggest you turn on the UK English dictionary in your word processing software. This is done in Microsoft Word by clicking "Tools" then "Languages" and setting the dictionary to UK English. Then if you use the American spelling the word will be underlined in red and you can then choose the correct spelling from the list.

It is helpful to have a copy of The Canon (The 56 short stories and 4 novels by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) for research purposes, but they can be accessed on-line by Googling "Sherlock Holmes Stories" or by using the link listed in the links section of Letters Of Mary. There is a Russell/Holmes Atlas on-line that can be helpful to "see" some of the locations http://spicerweb.org/pages/russell_atlas.html ** note between russell and atlas there is an underline _

There are many things that have a different name in England these are but a few:

Lift instead elevator	Vest or under vest instead of undershirt
Flat instead of apartment	Waistcoat instead of vest
Bonnet instead of hood on a car	Trousers instead of pants
Boot instead of trunk on a car	Frock instead of dress
Torch instead of flashlight	Braces instead of suspenders
Motorcar or vehicle instead of auto or car	Ground floor is first floor
Petrol instead of gas	First floor is second story floor
Lav, lavatory, loo, WC or toilet not restroom	Bath not bathroom

More information than you might ever need.

Someone goes to hospital in England, instead of going to *the* hospital. The British use the word *quite* instead of the more American *really* and *suppose* in the place of *guess*. For example – Where the American would say – It was really cold, they would say – It was

quite cold. Instead of saying – I guess that might be true, they would say – I suppose that might be true.

The London train station that one would use to go south to Eastbourne from London is Victoria Station. To go to Oxford from London you take the train from Paddington Station. So Russell would take the train from Eastbourne to Victoria Station and then would need to cross-town to the Paddington Station to travel to Oxford.

Russell's 1919 Morris is, in my mind, a roadster and only has two seats. Now I have been told it might be a four-door car, but it is never made clear, and no more that two people are ever in it at any time in Kanon. Russell thinks about replacing the vehicle at the beginning of LANG (Aug. 1924) At the end of GOTH (Oct. 31, 1924) Russell has a new automobile, but its make and/or model are not mentioned, but it seems bigger than the Morris, as it carries Russell, Damian and Estelle along with all their luggage back to the cottage from the train station in Eastbourne.

Both Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes are experienced on horseback. We see this in GAME for both, and in LETT for Russell.

Holmes is an experienced cabman, driving a hansom cab in MREG and a larger four-wheel growler in BEEK. He can also drive a car, as he is the driver of the taxi that picks Russell up from the boarding house in LETT. Russell learns to drive an automobile after taking lessons at the age of 19. Russell can also drive a horse drawn wagon as she drives the gypsy caravan across Wales in BEEK. She credits Patrick with teaching her the intricacies of harnesses and harnessing a horse. Neither Russell or Holmes seem enamored of mules (OJER) or donkeys (GAME)