

Fifteen Weeks of Bees: A Laurie R. King celebration

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I was fifteen when I first met Sherlock Holmes, fifteen years old with my nose in a book as I walked the Sussex Downs, and nearly stepped on him.

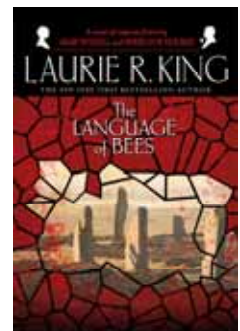
Fifteen Weeks of Bees began fifteen years ago, in February 1994, when Laurie R. King's **The Beekeeper's Apprentice** introduced young Mary Russell to Sherlock Holmes, and a cult was born. It and the next seven novels in the series (all still in print) have appeared in dozens of countries and on bestseller lists from the Independent Booksellers' Association to the *New York Times*. It was chosen as a Notable YA novel by the ALA, was one of the IMBA's **100 Favorite Mysteries of the 20th Century**, and is one of the ten mystery novels that writer and Newsweek columnist Anna Quindlen would "most like to find in a summer rental."



Fifteen weeks after this anniversary of **The Beekeeper's Apprentice** brings us to May 22, 2009: the 150th birthday of the man who brought Sherlock Holmes into the world, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle,



Between those two dates, on April 28, Bantam Books will publish **The Language of Bees**. Laurie R. King's ninth Mary Russell/Sherlock Holmes adventure returns the duo not only to the Sussex Downs where they met, but also to the beekeeping passion that (according to Sir Arthur) became Holmes' avocation upon his retirement from Baker Street. In **The Language of Bees**, amidst Bohemian London and primeval monuments, Holmes' past comes to life in ways Sir Arthur could never have imagined.



The weeks that include **Beekeeper's** anniversary, **The Language of Bees'** debut, and Conan Doyle's birthday thus make up **Fifteen Weeks of Bees**, a celebration of the

ongoing adventures of Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes. The Laurie R. King web site (www.LaurieRKing.com) will coordinate a wide range of special events, including:

- Free downloads of **The Beekeeper's Apprentice** from Picador Press
- A cooperative fundraiser with Heifer International (www.heifer.org) to benefit Heifer's international beehive project
- Weekly posts from 109 year-old Mary Russell on her MySpace blog
- A limited-edition broadside—short story and woodcut—with Lavendier Press
- Special events for book groups and libraries: discussion packets, video chats, and library-only contests, in celebration of National Library Week in April
- Laurie's reflections on writing **The Language of Bees** in her blog, Mutterings
- A blog tour—guest blogs by Laurie on a variety of **Bees**-related topics
- A new Mary Russell **Language of Bees** t-shirt
- Weekly contests and drawings including Youtube, Goodreads, Facebook, fan fiction projects, and contributions to Laurie's next Russell and Holmes novel
- Mary Russell—Twittering!
- Related discussions on Laurie's Virtual Book Club
- Library events with Les Klinger (**The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes**) on Arthur Conan Doyle
- And finally, an exciting new project called "**Russellscape**," to be unveiled on the Laurie R. King website February 1



Watch how we build the buzz for **Fifteen Week of Bees**, beginning Feb 1, 2009, at www.LaurieRKing.com. To schedule an interview or guest blog, request a review ARC of **The Language of Bees**, or ask for more information, write to: Bees@laurierking.com

Laurie R. King lives on California's central coast. Her background includes such diverse interests as Old Testament theology and construction work, and she has been writing crime fiction since 1987. The winner of the Edgar, Nero, Macavity, Lambda, and John Creasey awards, she is the author of four highly praised stand-alone suspense novels and the Kate Martinelli contemporary mystery series, and is currently working on the tenth Mary Russell/Sherlock Holmes novel, to be published by Bantam Books in 2010.