

**Transcription of a Twitter Conversation between Mary Russell (@mary\_russell) and Laurie R King (@LaurieRKing) on 29 August, 2020 using the hashtag #RussellKingChat**

MRH: Good day, @LaurieRKing, so here we are for a conversation on twitter. Thank you for joining me.

LRK: Hello Miss Russell! I'm not very good on Twitter, but this is the way you wanted, so please forgive any errors...

MRH: I'm sure they will be few. I find Twitter the ideal way to communicate with my readers. It is at once intimate and affords distance.

LRK: I remember you had a conversation with my friend Les Klinger some years ago, which he greatly enjoyed.

MRH: I found it tedious.

LRK: We put that interview into A Study in Sherlock. In fact, I posted that interview on my blog yesterday.

MRH: I understand your books with Mr Klinger have been very popular. Frankly, I don't understand the appeal of made-up adventures of a made-up Holmes.

LRK: True, it is a puzzle. But speaking of puzzles, how is the weather there in Sussex? I don't imagine rain encourages the crowds on a bank holiday weekend, which in Sussex can be as bad as in Santa Cruz.

MRH: The last few days have been dreary, and it does keep away the daytrippers and the Down walkers. Both can be a bother. The rain is good for the crops.

LRK: We could sure use some rain here in California. The fires have been terrible.

MRH: We have been concerned about your situation. Have the fires and the smoke abated?

LRK: The smoke is still bad, but the fires are coming under control, thank goodness. I've been thinking of the lovely summers I've spent in England—and two years ago, when you gave me such a lovely tea on the terrace!

MRH: That was a lovely afternoon. When you are next in England we hope you will have the time to join us again for tea and scones.

LRK: Some of your fans have been thinking about a group trip to Britain. Where would you recommend they go? Dartmoor, Lake District, Orkney? And Sussex, of course, we could meet you and your husband at the Tiger Inn...?

MRH: London of course, and Oxford. Dartmoor has a certain type of beauty but can be a challenge to cross on foot. I might add it would be rather presumptuous to assume Holmes and I would be available to meet anyone who comes to Sussex.

LRK: Well, you know Americans, presumptuous is us. I've always thought it would be fun to take a round-the-world voyage tracing the steps of your memoirs. What were some of your favorite places?

MRH: India, Morocco, and Japan are exotic, of course, and Palestine will always be dear to me. Your Northern California, when it isn't in flames is a very special place.

LRK: And the Riviera, right?

MRH: In the 20s it was quite a place apart. I wish you could have visited Monaco and the Antibes at that time, Ms King. The atmosphere was stimulating with so many artists and unique individuals.

LRK: And what about people? Who, in the memoirs up to the summer of 1925, have you been most interested in?

MRH: Kim was intriguing, and I dearly loved Dorothy Ruskin. I was taken with the Murphys. Sara and Gerald were such open and generous people. Especially Sara who was hostess, muse, mother, and beauty all at once.

LRK: Oh, that reminds me—I'm currently editing your adventures in Romania!

MRH: Oh my, yes, Roumania. Another case Holmes enticed me into...vampires...really!

LRK: I know! It's certainly keeping me entertained. I've just got to the part where you set off on a motorcycle.

MRH: Have you ridden on a motorcycle, Ms King? I find them exhilarating. I learned to ride in Los Angeles after the events you entitled "Locked Rooms."

LRK: And I remember you leaping on a motorcycle in London, in God of the Hive! The only time I've been on one was as a rider, and I wasn't good at leaning into curves...

MRH: You must trust the driver or it can be quite demanding and cause a problem with that person. Always best to be the person in front and in control.

LRK: Miss Russell, some people have questions that they wanted me to ask, I hope you don't mind? For example, our mutual friend Merrily asked how you've managed living with Holmes all these years without strangling him?

MRH: I don't approve of questions about our private life, as you know. Having said that it can be a challenge but we are both difficult people and have our ways.

LRK: OK. Some fans are interested in seeing you and Holmes on screen at long last—I know that you've seen Sherlock Jr, but do you have any favorite movies or tv versions of him, maybe more recent than 1922?

MRH: I don't believe any have truly captured Holmes. Some have come close, but most are mere caricatures using a pipe and a deerstalker. I'll turn the table and ask if you have a favourite?

LRK: I adored Jeremy Brett, whom I saw with Edward Hardwicke on the stage as well. Not that Brett is as tall (or frankly handsome) as your husband, but he was good.

MRH: We met Mr Brett when he was doing his series on Holmes and were impressed by his dedication to the stories. There have been so many books and TV series that haven't.

MRH: My followers have been asking me about Enola Holmes, the supposed sister of Holmes and Mycroft. Have you read the books?

LRK: There're great fun. And again, my friend Les Klinger is following the court documents, on this as with his own, at [free-sherlock.com](http://free-sherlock.com)

LRK: But what about Holmes and RUSSELL? Are you looking forward to seeing yourself portrayed on screen?

MRH: Not really. I will be once again relegated to being a piece of fiction. Not a feeling I enjoy. It is inevitable, I suppose.

LRK: I suppose there have been a lot of changes in what women can do, during your life. Do you have any advice for young women?

MRH: My only advice would be to be yourself and to take charge of your life. Get a good education and never be afraid to do what you think is right.

LRK: Before we go, I wonder if you have any comments on the efforts of my team has been doing on social media recently?

MRH: Do send my regards to your brother-in-law. His artwork and graphics have been exceptional. Several of my followers have asked about the pieces he has done for #RivieraGold and the one for this conversation.

LRK: I'll tell him. In fact, he's usually the one here on @LaurieRKing. I'm so incredibly busy, with your editing and my Mystery Writers of America work, I'm grateful for his help. Except when it comes to this, of course.

LRK: One more question, from me personally. Have you ever regretted sending me the manuscripts? Have I done as much with them as you hoped I would, when you sent me the trunk back in 1991?

MRH: No, it was necessary at the time. I do wonder what you did with the trunk. It was a favourite.

LRK: Ah, the trunk. Please rest assured that the trunk is on my most urgent, To-Grab section of the house in case of fires. But I should ask, don't you want your emeralds and Holmes' stick-pin back?

MRH: Not at this time. Holmes hasn't mentioned his stick-pin since I sent it to you and I have little use for the emeralds.

MRH: I might ask if you regret getting involved with the memoirs as it does take time away from your work.

LRK: It has been my profound pleasure and my great honor, to help in some way to bring your Memoirs to the outer world. (And soon, we hope, to the screen...) Plus, it's been a real kick to meet you both!

MRH: The pleasure is mutual. Good evening, Ms King.

LRK: Thank you, Miss Russell, from me and from your many fans. Have a great bank holiday weekend! Your fans are looking forward to Castle Shade and all the many more adventures of Russell & Holmes.

MRH: I do appreciate my name being first.

LRK: Always! Good night, Miss Russell (and Mr Holmes, wherever you might be...)