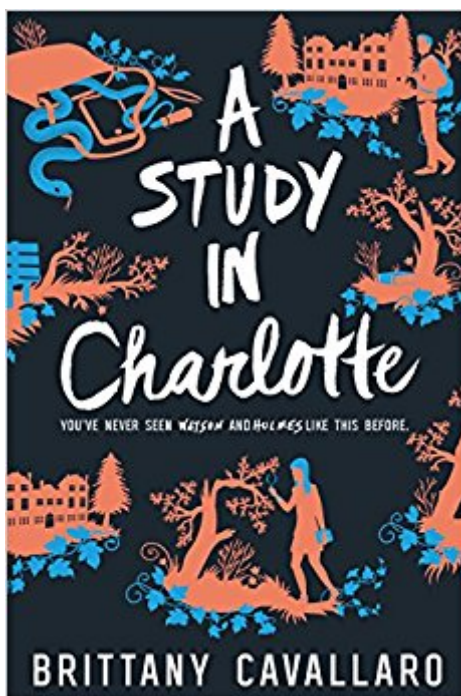


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# A Study In Charlotte (Charlotte Holmes Novel)



## Synopsis

The first book in a witty, suspenseful new trilogy about a brilliant new crime-solving duo: the teen descendants of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson. This clever page-turner will appeal to fans of Maureen Johnson and Ally Carter. Jamie Watson has always been intrigued by Charlotte Holmes; after all, their great-great-great-grandfathers are one of the most infamous pairs in history. But the Holmes family has always been odd, and Charlotte is no exception. She's inherited Sherlock's volatility and some of his vices—and when Jamie and Charlotte end up at the same Connecticut boarding school, Charlotte makes it clear she's not looking for friends. But when a student they both have a history with dies under suspicious circumstances, ripped straight from the most terrifying of the Sherlock Holmes stories, Jamie can no longer afford to keep his distance. Danger is mounting and nowhere is safe—and the only people they can trust are each other.

## Book Information

Series: Charlotte Holmes Novel (Book 1)

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up • What if Sherlock Holmes's great-great-great-granddaughter went to boarding school with Dr. Watson's great-great-great-grandson? They might strike up a friendship as sophomores. Charlotte Holmes and James Watson do, at the money-conscious Sherringford, a prep school in Connecticut. Holmes (as she is known) has an analytical, antisocial bent and a bit of a drug problem. Watson, who narrates, has a short fuse and quickly becomes a suspect in a date rapist's murder. Together they begin an investigation, putting their inductive and deductive skills to

the test. A familiarity with classic Arthur Conan Doyle tales is helpful, though most references are explained in the story. Both Holmes and Watson are prickly teenagers in a plot that includes poison, explosions, Moriarty's descendant, and a deadly virus. The case wraps up neatly, with the indication that Holmes and Watson will team up again in the near future. This novel presents a dark view of boarding school, with some drinking and other risqué behavior. Suggest to fans of Maggie Stiefvater's "Raven Cycle" series (Scholastic). Slightly younger readers might try Colleen Gleason's "Stoker and Holmes" series (Chronicle), featuring Holmes's niece and Bram Stoker's sister.

**VERDICT** An additional selection for most school libraries. —Maggie Knapp, Trinity Valley Sch., Fort Worth, TX --This text refers to the Unknown Binding edition.

—“A thrilling twist on a classic. Readers will be pulled in by both the riveting mystery and Charlotte Holmes, a brilliant heroine with secrets of her own.” (Maureen Johnson, New York Times bestselling author of the Shades of London series) —“Cavallaro’s crackling dialogue, well-drawn characters, and complicated relationships make this feel like a seamless and sharp renewal of Doyle’s series. An explosive mystery featuring a dynamic duo.” (Kirkus Reviews (starred)) —“Debut author Cavallaro brings Arthur Conan Doyle’s sleuths (or their distant relatives, anyway) into the 21st century, casting Holmes as a brilliant young woman and Watson, who narrates, as her admirer and accomplice...An involving murder mystery, and a promising start to a planned trilogy.” (Publishers Weekly) —“Fans of television’s Elementary and Sherlock will avidly devour this book...a joyous excuse to watch one of the literary world’s most beloved pairings come together.” (Booklist)

**First Sentence:** The first time I met her was at the tail end of one of those endless weekday nights you could only have at a school like Sherringford. Jamie Watson and Charlotte Holmes are and three-times great-grandchildren of the famous detective and his friend. Both are now attending boarding school in Connecticut. When a fellow student dies, they join forces to find the killer. Cavallaro does have a good voice — “I felt like I was being pulled through a dark, dank wardrobe into some boozy Narnia.” — “The game is Texas Hold’em, it said, horse, but with a bizarre, wild precision, like a drunk Greek philosopher orating at a bacchanal. The mixture of the real with the fictional characters makes them seem more real. However, there is a contradiction when Cavallaro refers to the Sherlock Holmes stories having been written by Arthur Conan Doyle while we are to believe these

two characters descended from Doyle's Holmes and Watson. Watson's confusion over how he feels about Holmes is refreshingly and delightfully normal. This would be unremarkable except for how abnormal the characters are in so many other ways. One does, however, love the idea of a Watsonian guide for the care and keeping of Holmeses. For a YA book rated as being for G9 and up, there is a lot of violence and drug use, and even the suggestion of drugging a girl in order to rape her. One really must question whether they would want their under-18 children to read this. The bullying and relationships of the characters does seem valid, but not appealing. In fact, Watson and his father were really the only likable characters in the story. "A Study in Charlotte" had an interesting concept but was not a particularly enjoyable read. A STUDY IN CHARLOTTE (YA Mys-Holmes/Watson-CT-Contemp) - Okay Cavallaro, Brittany 1st in series HarperCollins Publishers March 2016

If you're a fan of re-tellings then you will love A Study in Charlotte, a contemporary novel that follows the lives of a new generation of Sherlock and Holmes. Jamie Watson's life is turned upside down when he is sent to a boarding school in Connecticut that just so happens to be close to his father's house. The same man that got remarried and Jamie hasn't spoken to in years. Despite his protests Jamie finds himself at this new school and longing for London. The one bright spot? Charlotte Holmes, whose accent makes him feel like home and won't give him the time of day. As the only Holmes around his age, Jamie has been dreaming about Charlotte since he learned her name. He wonders what she looks like and imagines blonde hair, creating fantastic stories in his head of their crime solving adventure and friendship reminiscent of the original Sherlock and Holmes. His dreams aren't exactly grounded in reality and it turns out that she has dark hair, but he's not fazed. He manages to become friendly, if not friends with Holmes. Charlotte and Jamie are wonderful, contemporary versions of their counterparts with familiar attributes while still being their own unique characters. Charlotte has a problem with narcotics, plays the violin and can usually be found with her beakers and test tubes (hopefully not blowing anything up). Jamie wants to be a writer, is a decent rugby player (despite what his scholarship might lead you to believe) and is braver than he thinks. Their best-friendship is appealing and realistic, despite Charlotte's unique outlook on how to treat other human beings. You fall in love with the characters, whether you relate to Charlotte, Jamie, a little of

both, or maybe one of the other supporting characters. You'll find yourself enjoying this novel. Each character even has a well thought out backstory that we learn more about throughout the course of the novel. What events and mistakes lead to Charlotte being sent to a boarding school in Connecticut when she should be in England? If Moriarty and narcotics are involved, then you know it's going to be intense. Especially when the famous crime family isn't particularly forgiving.

Jamie's story is less thrilling but no less important to his character. Not everyone is as they appear, some have secrets, some don't always make the best choices, but it all drives the story forward. The book is full of poison, explosions, spying, chases and other staples of great mysteries. The book has a lot of nods to classic Sherlock and Watson adventures and sometimes outright mentions them. As a huge Sherlock fan, from the classic novels of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to the modern BBC creation, this book was perfection. I loved how it felt like a new story featuring some of my favourite characters and it kept you guessing until the end. The action and plot were well paced, allowing the story to unfold like a mystery should. Don't worry, Moriarty's were included in the writing of this story. Highly recommended to young adult/teen fans of mystery, contemporary, or the classic Sherlock Holmes novels. I fell in love with this series and can't wait to see where it goes from here.

Elementary My Dear Watson! This story is just the next generation of loving the mysteries of Sherlock Holmes. I myself only know of Sherlock from the Robert Downey JR. Movies and a few episodes of BBC version. But this story is nothing like those are. A Study in Charlotte is the first of a series about not only gender flipped (Sherlock Only) but also descendants of the legendary Sherlock Holmes & John Watson. I found it very touching that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was Watson's literary agent. A nice homage to the creator of this elusive and famous detective. I am fairly new to mysteries, but I do know that I thoroughly enjoyed this story and the way the mystery was constantly puzzling in the back of my mind. If you are looking for a good YA mystery novel that pays homage to mysteries of old, then look no further than this series. The characters are a majority of teenagers which is only fitting and highly believable when it comes to characterization. The book does just barely dust over some somewhat unsavory topics, I feel it is handled particularly well. The dynamic between some of the characters is a hoot and a half though. You can tell that Charlotte does care for her roommate, Lena; whom I find adorable and love how open she is to all the stuff Charlotte puts her through and doesn't ask questions. The romance is subtle and honestly I could do without it. It

doesn't really add the plot in any way and it's hard to tell if it's really there at all. Odds are it is slowly building as this is not a stand-alone novel. Can't wait to read book 2 and hope to get more insight to the host of characters that are behind Holmes & Watson.

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