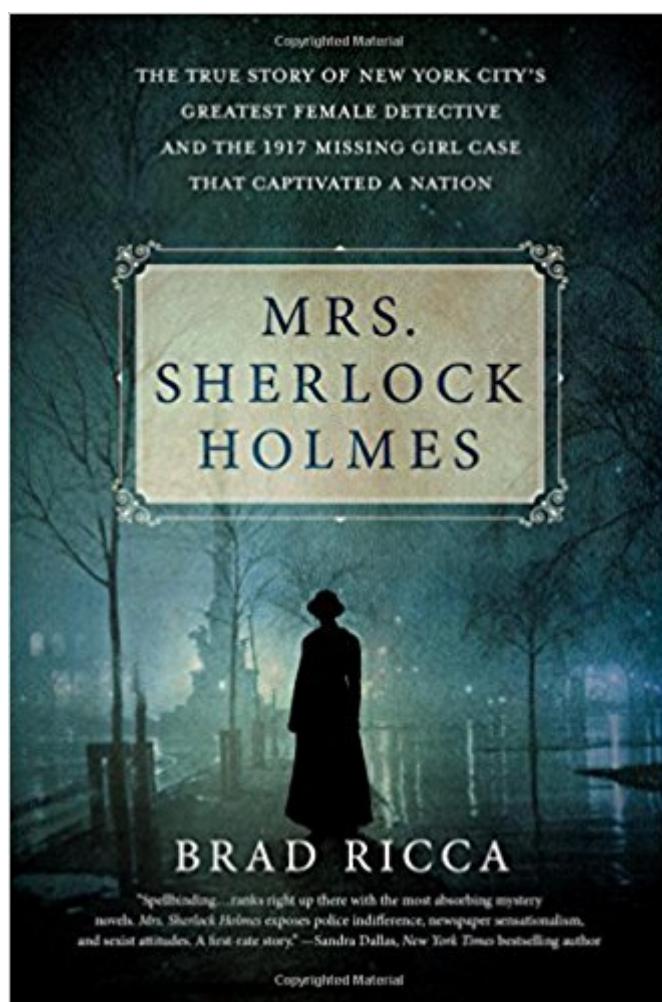


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# Mrs. Sherlock Holmes: The True Story Of New York City's Greatest Female Detective And The 1917 Missing Girl Case That Captivated A Nation



## Synopsis

Recipient of the â^... Kirkus Star, Awarded to Books of Exceptional MeritA 2017 True Crime Book for Summer, The New York Times Sunday Book Review"An express train of a story." -Kirkus Reviews"Heroic...her inspiring story demands a hearing." -The New York Times Sunday Book ReviewMrs. Sherlock Holmes tells the true story of Mrs. Grace Humiston, the detective and lawyer who turned her back on New York society life to become one of the nation's greatest crime fighters during an era when women weren't even allowed to vote. After graduating from N.Y.U. law school, Grace opened a legal clinic in the city for low-income immigrant clients, and quickly established a reputation as a fierce, but fair lawyer who was always on the side of the disenfranchised.Â Grace's motto "Justice for those of limited means" led her to strange cases all over the city, and eventually the world. From defending an innocent giant on death row to investigating an island in Arkansas with a terrible secret about slavery; from the warring halls of Congress to a crumbling medieval tower in Italy, Grace solved crimes in-between shopping at Bergdorf Goodman and being marked for death by the sinister Black Hand. She defended a young wife who shot her would-be rapist and fought the framing of a Baltimore black man at the mercy of a corrupt police department. Known for dressing only in black, Grace was appointed the first woman U.S. district attorney in history. And when a pretty 18-year-old girl named Ruth Cruger went missing on Valentine's Day in New York, Grace took the case afterÂ the police gave up. Grace and her partner, the hard-boiled Hungarian detective Julius J. Kron, navigated a dangerous mystery of secret boyfriends, two-faced cops,underground tunnels, rumors of white slavery, and a mysterious pale man-- in a desperate race against time to save Ruth. When she solved the crime, she was made the first female consulting detective to the NYPD.But despite her many successes in social and criminal justice, Grace began to see chilling connections in the cases she had solved, leading to a final showdown with her most fearsome adversary of all and one of the most powerful men of the twentieth century. Â This is the first-ever literary biography of the singular woman the press nicknamed after fiction's greatest detective. In the narrative tradition of In Cold Blood and The Devil in the White City, her poignant story unmasks unmistakable connections between missing girls,the role of the media, and the real truth of crime stories. The great mystery of Mrs. Sherlock Holmes -- and its haunting twist ending -- is how could one woman with so much power disappear so completely?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An express train of a story...Rapid, compelling storytelling informed by rigorous research and enlivened by fecund imagination." •Starred review, Kirkus Review "A briskly paced true-crime tale...A fascinating read." •Minneapolis Star Tribune "Ricca's dramatic, novelistic storytelling makes for a great read. •BookPage "Rambunctiously excellent...Ricca has a whopper of a story to tell, and he tells it with thrilling enthusiasm [and] page-turning intensity...his storytelling skills give Humiston's incredible life the book it deserves. •The Christian Science Monitor "Heroic...her inspiring story demands a hearing. •The New York Times "The author of *Super Boys: The Amazing Adventures of Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster* •The Creators of Superman (2013) returns with the astonishing story of the first female U.S. district attorney...Rapid, compelling storytelling informed by rigorous research and enlivened by fecund imagination." •Kirkus Reviews (Starred) "Ricca has parlayed an obscure reference to Mrs. Sherlock Holmes in his earlier research into a spellbinding true crime history that reads like a novel. It will be enjoyed by aficionados of Victorian crime novels as well as true crime fans." •Library Journal (Starred) "[Humiston's] story demands a hearing.... Brad Ricca makes a heroic case for Humiston, a lawyer and United States district attorney who forged a career of defending powerless women and immigrants." •New York Times Book Review "Fans of Erik Larson's books will enjoy reading about Grace Humiston's remarkable career in an era when women were still fighting for the right to vote." •Booklist "In *Mrs. Sherlock Holmes*, Brad Ricca paints the picture of Grace Humiston, a soft-spoken yet persistent woman investigator determined to solve the disappearance of an 18-year-old girl •this in the midst of both the suffragist and white-slavery movements. Where the police leave off, Humiston, undaunted by

naysayers, picks up clues and doggedly follows them. Ricca lays out this fascinating whodunit with a novelist's skill, making Mrs. Sherlock Holmes a suspenseful winner." •Cathy Scott, award-winning journalist and Los Angeles Times bestselling author of *Murder of a Mafia Daughter* and *The Killing of Tupac Shakur*"Brad Ricca's spellbinding nonfiction account of the disappearance and murder of a young woman ranks right up there with the most absorbing mystery novels. Set against a background of early 20th century New York, Mrs. Sherlock Holmes exposes police indifference, newspaper sensationalism and sexist attitudes. A first-rate story." •Sandra Dallas, *New York Times* Bestselling author of *The Last Midwife*"A fascinating account of Grace Humiston, a pioneering attorney in the early 20th century...Her incredible life story, superbly portrayed by Ricca, is more proof that truth is stranger than fiction." •Publisher's Weekly

BRAD RICCA is the author of *Super Boys*, winner of the 2014 Ohioana Book Award in Nonfiction, winner of a 2014 Cleveland Arts Prize for Emerging Artist in Literature, and a Booklist Top 10 Book on the Arts. He is also the author of *American Mastodon*, winner of the 2009 St. Lawrence Book Award. He is a SAGES Fellow at Case Western Reserve University and lives with his family in Cleveland.

excellent book. i had trouble figuring out where to shelve it in the library. Finally decided on nonfiction. catalog cards: law 340; Humiston, Grace; MRS SHERLOCK HOLMES; Ricca, Brad.

Loved this story- the end drags a little, but it was def worth the time to read about this influential woman lawyer. Great glimpse into early New York city life and corruption

The author goes back and forth in time. Instead of starting off in Grace's life and going in chronological order he goes to the main case, to small cases and then goes to the suspect... Interesting subject though...

I never heard of Grace before reading this book. It was a great look at the period of time in the early 1900s,. And, at the same time is relevant today.

Truth is stranger-or more compelling than- fiction. My sisters and step mom also enjoyed it. That book is making the 'rounds'.

This book was too meandering and couldn't decide what it wanted to be. It kept jumping from one thing to another. I really didn't get a feel for a "Mrs Sherlock Holmes." A disappointment.

Had trouble at times by the Oder of events. Covered a lot of ground. Interesting, passionate woman. At times had to motivate myself to finish.

Writing wasn't wonderful but it's a great story. Would make a terrific movie starring Meryl Streep. Great female as lead in story.

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