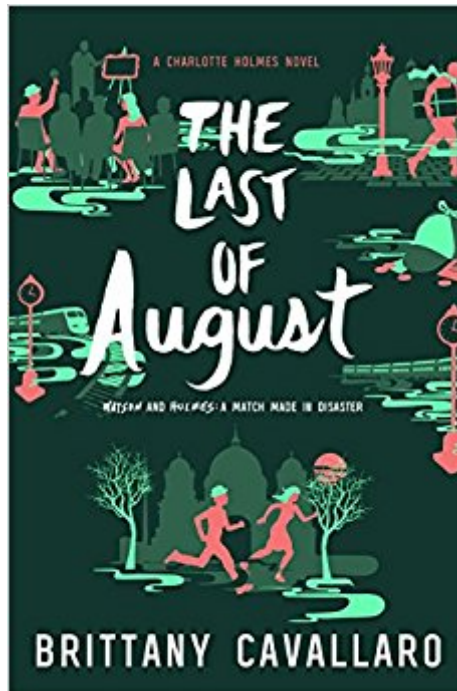




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# The Last Of August (Charlotte Holmes Novel)



## Synopsis

In the second brilliant, action-packed book in the Charlotte Holmes trilogy, Jamie Watson and Charlotte Holmes are in a chase across Europe to untangle a web of shocking truths about the Holmes and Moriarty families. Jamie and Charlotte are looking for a winter break reprieve in Sussex after a fall semester that almost got them killed. But nothing about their time off is proving simple, including Holmes and Watson's growing feelings for each other. When Charlotte's beloved Uncle Leander goes missing from the Holmes estate after being oddly private about his latest assignment in a German art forgery ring the game is afoot once again, and Charlotte throws herself into a search for answers. So begins a dangerous race through the gritty underground scene in Berlin and glittering art houses in Prague, where Holmes and Watson discover that this complicated case might change everything they know about their families, themselves, and each other.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up Picking up just weeks after *A Study in Charlotte* ended, Jamie Watson and Charlotte Holmes are on their Christmas break in London. Their friendship has taken a few steps back, though, and things seem tense. After Holmes's mother turns suddenly ill and her beloved uncle Leander goes missing, the game is afoot. The pair travel across Europe from Berlin to Prague, bickering all the way yet still making a great team. The book is nearly all from Watson's perspective, as was the first title in the trilogy, but a few chapters at the end are from Holmes's view,

and they are worth the wait, filled with turns of phrase that only she could dream up. This delightful sequel introduces a mystery on a grander scale with much higher stakes while staying true to the flavor of an original Sir Arthur Conan Doyle story. There are new characters, a kidnapping, poison, art fraud, narrow escapes, danger, drama, and a final twist with a heap of delicious, complex sleuthing that will keep readers guessing until the end. No one is ever what or who they seem.

**VERDICT** A strong purchase for fans of *A Study in Charlotte* and where mysteries are popular. **A** •Kristen Rademacher, Marist High School, IL

**A** “Beautiful prose, thrilling action, a touch of romance, and two complicated heroes to root for make this a not-to-be-missed sequel. Readers will be craving the final book in the trilogy.” **A** • (Booklist (starred review)) **A** “Fans of the first Charlotte Holmes novel, *A Study in Charlotte*, will not be disappointed, and readers who are new to these characters will savor the fast-paced plot....This series is entirely un-put-downable. The *Last of August* will definitely leave readers anxiously awaiting the next installment.” **A** • (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)) **A** “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.” **A** • (Maureen Johnson, New York Times bestselling author of the *Shades of London* series) **A** “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.” **A** • (Kirkus Reviews (starred review) on *A Study in Charlotte*) **A** “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.” **A** • (Booklist on *A Study in Charlotte*) **A** “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.” **A** • (Publishers Weekly on *A Study in Charlotte*)

I was lucky enough to read an early version of this book. And I guess it says a great deal about how much I LOVE this book and this series that I had already read it 5 times before its release date. I can’t pretend to be anything like objective when it comes to Jamie Watson and Charlotte Holmes. I love their relationship, with all its complications and twists and turns. I love how every character in this book is painted in vivid color. I love the voices of the characters **A** “oh, man, the voices of Jamie’s wry, smart,

adrenaline-fueled narration, and the fact that we get several chapters of Charlotte's cool, precise voice at the helm (because Jamie is basically unconscious for that period, naturally). I want these books to be blankets, so I can build myself a fort out of them and never emerge.

I was incredibly lucky to find an Advance Reader Copy (ARC) of this book in advance of my pre-ordered copy arriving. This review is of that copy which, for clarification, I lucked into and did not receive from the publisher. I do own a copy of this book and will be editing this review when I re-read it. The Last of August cemented for me that this series is one of my favorites in recent memory. Ms. Cavallaro perfectly balances light-hearted humor, strong emotions, mystery, and drama. There are certainly wonderful things about these books apart from the characters; Cavallaro is a poet and her phrasing at points is perfectly efficient and utterly beautiful, the mystery in this book is stronger than in the first and keeps you on your toes as a reader, the greater Holmes family - introduced in this book - are a puzzle unto themselves, but ultimately your opinion on this book will live or die on what you think of Charlotte and Jamie. Jamie Watson is a marshmallow and I love him. He wears his heart on his sleeve and is full of emotion and cares deeply, even when he doesn't want to. I love that Jamie fills a role that is often given to female characters and that it doesn't detract from his masculinity or desirability. Poor, poor Jamie does not know what hit him when he's around the methodical calculating Holmeses and this book certainly shows that, but it also addresses the ways Jamie is good for Charlotte and it deepens his relationship with his father, who also knows the perplexities of a Watson-Holmes relationship. Charlotte Holmes - how I do love Charlotte and her obsessive need for control. Charlotte wants desperately to be in control, she wants desperately to be the most capable person in the room, but she also needs to be softened, to be tempered. Charlotte burns brightly but without friends she threatens to burn out. Charlotte needs people who respect her enough to push her to do and be better, but she's also deeply afraid that she is too broken to be happy. Oh, Charlotte, you are a panther, a leopard, a lynx; Fierce and smart and capable. This review has already devolved a bit into my rambling, so I'll end it with this:- if you liked [ASIN:0062398903 A Study in Charlotte (Charlotte Holmes Novel)] you will like this even more. It's everything good from book 1 but stronger and deeper and more.- if you were less enthusiastic about book 1 you might still like this, it depends on what you did or didn't like about book 1- if you need someone to gush about James Watson, Jr. or Charlotte Holmes with you ever, you know who to talk to. Upon finishing this book I immediately wanted to have the third book and was dismayed that I couldn't pre-order it already, a year or so in advance. That's how much I loved this book.

I just finished THE LAST OF AUGUST and it is AMAZING. Charlotte Holmes is legitimately a YA heroine for the ages. She's flawed, compelling, prickly, brilliant, vulnerable, and funny. It takes a masterful writer to write a character who is convincingly as intelligent as Holmes, but Cavallaro pulls it off. Her writing is so sophisticated and accessible all at once. I'm in awe. I could rave about this book all day and how it just turns up the volume on EVERYTHING I loved about A STUDY IN CHARLOTTE. And the CHEMISTRY between Holmes and Watson. THE CHEMISTRY. Good lord almighty. Buy this book and thank me.

Us two non-Sherlockians were taken by storm when Brittany Cavallaro created two characters we couldn't resist loving. See why you need to read The Last of August (and A Study in Charlotte, the first in the series!). Watson and Holmes: A match made in disaster. What's up with our pair in this story? CJ: Oh my gosh what is NOT up with these two in this story?! Brittany added in the whole Holmes clan so you know there's bound to be drama. Jamie is still pining for Charlotte and Charlotte still has her hands in stuff she shouldn't. So, you know, the usual. NS: Jamie and Charlotte are this dynamic pair trying to navigate the tricky path of friendship, survival and, of course, crime solving in the only manner that Holmes and Watson can. Their banter and chemistry is off the charts, and they fluctuate between friendship to partners in crime solving to an intense romance to enmity. It's all very angsty. Let's talk about the characters who get a bigger role in this book, those pesky Moriartys. What do you think of their role in this story? CJ: All I knew about the Moriartys before this book was that they were no bueno. So when we learned of Charlotte and August's past in the previous book, I was all SAY WHAT! I knew there were going to be repercussions. Not sure Charlotte (and Jamie) deserved what happens, though! NS: This story has a super twisty plot and Charlotte and Jamie have have their hands full. Charlotte's mother is slowly being poisoned causing them to look for her missing uncle Leander. Their hunt for him leads them into the world of art forgery in Berlin and reunites Charlotte with the Moriarty who broke her heart and whose life she ruined, hello August. This adventure also leads them to Hadrian and Phillipa (August's brother and sister) and their schemes, not to mention Lucien (August's other sibling) who seeks revenge on Charlotte for what she did to August. All of it makes for a very interesting story. August is set in a different setting than Charlotte. What role did setting play in the overall story arc? CJ: I love that Brittany took them away from school. Changing the setting brought even more depth to the two of them and added the opportunity to bring in new characters. So we saw people we might not have seen if they stayed in the school. NS: Since A Study in Charlotte mainly occurred while they were in school, it was a bit

more thrilling in the Last of August to have these two characters travel around the globe. I liked seeing them outside of the school setting and the varied locations gave the story an added layer of romance, intrigue and adventure. What's in it for Sherlockians and non-Sherlockians alike? CJ: There are easter eggs that only Sherlock fans will get but they don't detract from the story at all. The characters are what make this book. Really. NS: Since I am a late blooming Sherlockian I cannot speak for those that have been Sherlock fans for years but I am sure they will love the way the story unfolds; in typical Sherlock fashion....fast, intelligent and very thrilling. Just when you think you have it all figured out.....What do you predict will happen in the third book in the series? CJ: Is it too much to hope for a big reunion between the families? Yeah, probably LOL. NS: That they will finally get to bump uglies!! The angst between Jamie and Charlotte is killlllling me! I am just a sucker for romance.

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