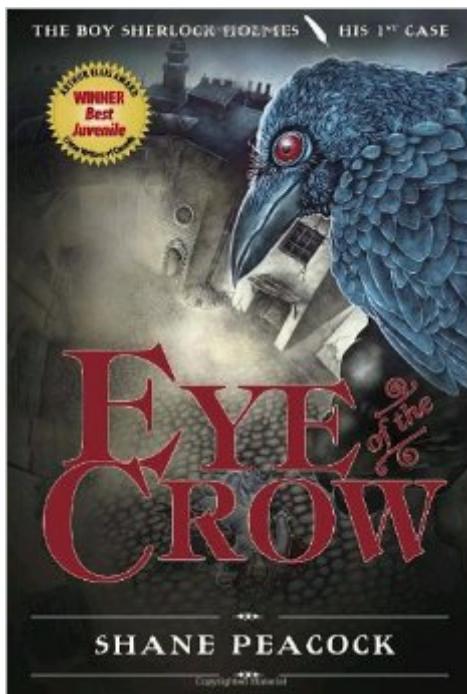


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Eye Of The Crow: The Boy Sherlock Holmes, His 1st Case



Synopsis

Sherlock Holmes, just thirteen, is a misfit. His highborn mother is the daughter of an aristocratic family, his father a poor Jew. Their marriage flouts tradition and makes them social pariahs in the London of the 1860s; and their son, Sherlock, bears the burden of their rebellion. Friendless, bullied at school, he belongs nowhere and has only his wits to help him make his way. But what wits they are! His keen powers of observation are already apparent, though he is still a boy. He loves to amuse himself by constructing histories from the smallest detail for everyone he meets. Partly for fun, he focuses his attention on a sensational murder to see if he can solve it. But his game turns deadly serious when he finds himself the accused — and in London, they hang boys of thirteen. Shane Peacock has created a boy who bears all the seeds of the character who has mesmerized millions: the relentless eye, the sense of justice, and the complex ego. The boy Sherlock Holmes is a fascinating character who is sure to become a fast favorite with young readers everywhere. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a mother who screens everything her 13-year-old daughter reads, including and especially those recommended by various reading lists, I've always been more than a little troubled by the character of Sherlock Holmes. Nobody says anything about the heroin addiction and depression suffered by this fictional character created by a (quite obviously) similarly contradictory writer, who is at once a man of science and superstition - but as a conservative anti-substance-abuse parent, I think that if

we whitewash that about this prodigious detective, we are not being honest about the often high price geniuses have to pay in exchange for their brilliance. Like the real person James Audubon who used to kill and pose real birds to create his fantastic bird portraits, Holmes is so clinical sometimes in his deduction, he borders on psychotic. That said, of *course* I *love* the Sherlock Holmes mysteries! Of *course* Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is one of the best mystery writers who ever lived! So, yes, any writer who attempts to speculate on what kind of young man Sherlock Holmes was before he became this great detective - well, if you're a regular, normal, *safe* person who "just" writes well for a living, you couldn't possibly hope to come close to the standards set by Doyle. "The Eye of the Crow" by Shane Peacock, however, does come pretty close. In "The Eye of the Crow", both the voices of the characters as well as the setting are authentic to the late 18th / early 19th-century. You can smell the docks of London, feel the smog as you wander through the gas-lamp-lit cobbled streets, sense impending threats around every other street corner, and appreciate the politics of class distinction as you flip through the pages.

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