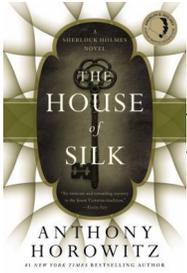


Books by the Stack



The House of Silk by Anthony Horowitz

It is 1890. A year after Sherlock Holmes's death, Watson – now in a retirement home – narrates a tale of Sherlockian detection that could tear apart the very fabric of society. The story opens with a train robbery in Boston, and moves to the innocuous setting of Wimbledon.

Why you'll like it: *Historical mystery, intricately plotted, fast-paced, suspenseful.*

About the Author: Author and television scriptwriter Anthony Horowitz was born in Stanmore, England on April 5, 1956. He writes mostly children's books, including the Alex Rider series, The Power of Five series, and the Diamond Brothers series. He also writes novels for adults including *The Killing Joke* and *The Magpie Murders*. He has created *Foyle's War* and *Midsomer Murders* for television as well as written episodes for *Poirot* and *Murder Most Horrid*. (Bowker Author Biography)

Questions for Discussion

1. Do you think that you need to have read the original Sherlock Holmes novels to enjoy *The House of Silk*? Do you feel that the new author set the tone of the book correctly? Did Horowitz bring a new dimension to the characters?
2. Holmes's way of looking at people, making a grand statement and then explaining it based on his observations, is meant to convey to you the idea that he sees things that you, the reader, cannot see and from these observations he makes calculated guesses based on his knowledge, which you do not share. Does that still work now, that we have televised sleuthing and we are used to seeing the evidence that the detective sees?
3. Did John Watson and Sherlock Holmes reveal new sides of their characters in this novel? Did the other characters – especially the various criminals – come to life and become human beings or merely ghastly versions of viciousness?
4. The narrator describes Joncour as a man who witnesses his life rather than lives it. What is meant by that?
5. Watson writes, "For all men are equal at the moment of death and who are we to judge them when a much greater judge away." Do you agree, even if the person in question tried to harm you or your family?
6. Among many other things Horowitz writes TV dramas. Do you think that this shows in the pace and plotting of the novel?
7. Why does Joncour build the garden? What compensation does it offer him? What might the garden suggest about the larger of art in our lives?
8. Silk ponders the sorrow of finding love in far off places and the difficulty of keeping desire alive in marriage. Talk about how this conflict gets played out in the novel – and in our own lives.

9. What were your reactions to the realization of what the House of Silk was and what it entailed? Were you surprised by Horowitz's evolution of the novel?

(questions provided by New York Public Library and litlovers.com)



www.grpl.org/BookClub