

“Travels with Sherlock”

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Setting:

London at the end of the 19th century

Synopsis:

Holmes and Lestrade follow clues left behind by a kidnapper in a quest to find a missing Dr Watson

Character Summary:

Males	3
Females	2
Any	1

Cast of Characters:**Major**

- Sherlock Holmes (M) – the greatest consulting detective who ever lived. Educated and precise in his speech.
- Inspector Lestrade (M) – Police Inspector travelling with Sherlock to find Watson, gruff and common speech.

Minor:

- Doctor Watson (M) – friend to Sherlock and “missing” man. Educated in his speech pattern.
- Mrs. Hudson (F) – Landlady and friend to Holmes and Watson, older sounding, rougher in speech but kind and caring.
- Toby the dog (A)- tracking dog Holmes uses on occasion. A good dog.
- Adler Housekeeper (F) – older woman, does not like Holmes, very common in her speech patterns.

1 Watson: Of my friend, Sherlock Holmes, I can say
2 without a doubt that he possesses one of the
3 keenest intellects of our generation. An
4 intellect which has served him and others
5 greatly as a detective. However, this
6 intellect is a double edged sword, laying
7 waste to the nefarious deeds of villainy but
8 also to Holmes himself. For you see if not
9 occupied, what is a great mind to do? I
10 recall a rather personal case, personal
11 because after all, I was directly involved
12 in it!

13 (*SFX violin played randomly and carelessly*)

14 (*SFX footsteps on stairs*)

15 Mrs. Hudson: (*concerned*) I'm so glad that you came by
16 inspector, he's been like this for days.
17 Just sits in his chair and stares at the
18 wall.

19 Lestrade: I'll try my best Mrs. Hudson. Hello Holmes!

20 Holmes: (*listless*) Ahh! Lestrade, what a pleasant
21 surprise. You wouldn't happen to be here
22 with a tough case would you?

23 Lestrade: Sadly... no. Only run of the mill crimes
24 lately. Petty thefts, assaults, nothing
25 that Scotland Yard can't handle and thus not
26 to your level of interests.

27 Holmes: Pity. Where's Moriarty when you need him?

28 Lestrade: Don't even joke about that Holmes! Where's
29 Watson this morning?

30 Holmes: Oh, he went out to tend to some patients or
31 something like that. At least he has
32 something to occupy his time.

33 (*SFX distant door chime*)

34 Lestrade: I'm certain something will come along.
35 Before you know it you'll be on the trail of
36 some mystery or another.

37 Holmes: Thank you Lestrade.

38 *(SFX footsteps on stairs)*

39 Mrs. Hudson: Sherlock? This letter was just delivered
40 for you by a strange man.

41 Holmes: Thank you Mrs. Hudson, strange how?

42 Mrs. Hudson: Even though it's the middle of summer he was
43 all bundled up as if it were freezing. Had
44 a scarf around his face and dark glasses on
45 his eyes.

46 *(SFX letter being opened)*

47 Holmes: Hullo... what do we have here?

48 Lestrade: Everything alright Holmes?

49 Holmes: *(energetic)* Better than alright Lestrade!
50 Grab your things! We're heading out!

51 Lestrade: To where? What was in the letter? You must
52 tell me something!

53 Holmes: Of course, Lestrade, of course! It's
54 mystery dear man! Sent by providence
55 itself. Here, read this while I dress.

56 Lestrade: *(reading)* 'Play my game and you shall win
57 your prize. I've captured your Watson but
58 where I hold him I'm not sharing. Follow my
59 clues and you may find him alive. Go to
60 where red hair was only a red herring.'

61 *(SFX paper rustling)*

62 Lestrade: Watson captured? What does this riddle
63 mean?

64 Holmes: It can mean nothing other than we are to go
65 to the Pawn shop of Mr. Jabez Wilson, an
66 unwitting victim in one of my earlier cases
67 which Watson chronicled.

68 Lestrade: The bloke whose shop was being used as a
69 cover to break into the Coburg branch of the
70 City and Suburban bank?

71 Holmes: Precisely! Come Lestrade! The game is
72 afoot!

73 (*SFX transitional music*)

74 Lestrade: It would appear that Mr. Wilson is not here
75 at the moment.

76 Holmes: No matter, we can still look around, anyway.

77 Lestrade: Imagine, tunneling into a bank to rob it!

78 Holmes: Clever. Had not suspended their cover to get
79 Mr. Wilson out of the shop—
80 Hmm... I think we may have found our clue.

81 Lestrade: So soon?

82 Holmes: Yes, and a bit obvious wouldn't you say?

83 Lestrade: Is that a tin of Captain Red's Pickled
84 Herring?

85 Holmes: Clearly the "red herring" our gamester
86 referred to. And another letter.

87 (*SFX rustling paper*)

88 Holmes: 'The first clue is always the easiest and
89 the most obvious to spot.
90 To find your dear Watson you must continue
91 our game not a foot but at a trot.
92 Go to the former residence of "the Woman"
93 and you will find,
94 Your next clue where a Bohemian scandal was
95 prevented yet justice unkind.'

96 Lestrade: A-ha! I can see it in your eyes. What clue
97 have you seen that alludes a mere mortal?

98 Holmes: Ha! Neither my mind nor my powers of
99 observation spring from any supernatural
100 source but rather from study and due
101 diligence. As for the clue it is obvious if
102 you had the proper background information.
103 Come, my dear Lestrade!

104 Lestrade: Where?

105 Holmes: Briony Lodge and the location of one of my
106 few failures!

107 Lestrade: You don't look like someone about to have a
108 failure rubbed in his face.

109 Holmes: Quite the contrary, while I did fail it was
110 to a singularly remarkable individual! One
111 I would not shy away from matching wits with
112 once again!

113 (*SFX travelling music*)

114 (*SFX knocking, door opens*)

115 Housekeeper: Mr. Holmes. I was told to expect you. Come
116 in if you must.

117 Lestrade: Expect? By whom?

118 Housekeeper: No use asking me. Had on a long coat with a
119 scarf around his face. Some dark glasses
120 and a hat pulled low. Spoke in a gruff kind
121 of voice.

122 Lestrade: What did he say?

123 Housekeeper: He needed to leave something. Gives me a few
124 schillings for me trouble. Says that
125 Sherlock Holmes would be coming later to
126 collect what he left. And before you asks I
127 don't know nothing about what he left or
128 wheres he left it.

129 Holmes: Thank you, my good lady, I already know
130 where it is. Won't be a moment.

131 Housekeeper: Don't expect me to make you tea or bring you
132 anything. After what you done to my lady
133 you're lucky I even let you in!

134 (*SFX retreating footsteps*)

135 Lestrade: How bloody rude.

136 Housekeeper: (*fading out*) Make sure you close the door
137 when you leave.

138

139 Lestrade: She doesn't like you Holmes.

140 (*SFX footsteps*)

141 Holmes: (*slightly amused*) She is justified,
142 Lestrade. I was key in making her mistress
143 flee the country.

144 Lestrade: The one that pulled one over on you?

145 Holmes: Indeed. She was quite the woman.

146 (*SFX wood scraping*)

147 Holmes: As expected. Right behind the painting.
148 How unoriginal.

149 Lestrade: Well? What's the clue this time? Where are
150 we going?

151 Holmes: First, we determine if Watson is really
152 missing; then a side trip to dispatch my
153 Irregulars; and then onto the location of
154 this clue! Here, read this.

155 Lestrade: 'You've done well and I hope you've been
156 entertained
157 Stay with me on this walk down memory lane.
158 Our time together is not over, for you have
159 only just begun.
160 Solve my clues quickly to catch me on the run.
161 Go to a place where dreams go to die.
162 Where an unblemished prince becomes a twisted
163 pauper while a wife cries.'

164 (*SFX paper rustling*)

165 Lestrade: Let me guess, you know where it is.

166 (*SFX travelling music*)

167 (*SFX hoof steps*)

168 Lestrade: We've been hither and yon across London. We're
169 not one step closer to finding Watson.

170 Holmes: Do you really think so?

171 Lestrade: You sit there with that confounded ghost of a
172 smile on your face! Aren't you worried for
173 your friend?!

174 Holmes: On the contrary, I believe that Watson is
175 quite safe.

176 Lestrade: We went to his practice and were told he had
177 an appointment at noon on 56 Strand flat
178 number 4. He never showed up. Something must
179 have happened. Do you think the numbers 56, 4
180 and 12 have anything to do with our case?

181 Holmes: Watson may have mentioned them in associated
182 with Strand Magazine once but in this case I
183 think we may be opening a can of Captain Red's
184 pickled Herring.

185 Lestrade: Making a joke at a time like this?

186 Holmes: Quite right Lestrade, how thoughtless of me.
187 Please, continue.

188 Lestrade: We followed clues to a pawn shop where you
189 foiled a bank robbery and then to a residence
190 you claim both a triumph and a failure but
191 won't tell me more.

192 Holmes: Someday, but for now it must remain a secret.

193 Lestrade: We went to Watson's practice to check on him,
194 then over to speak to some (*grumble*) little
195 street urchins!

196 Holmes: Those children are perhaps some of the
197 greatest unsung heroes in all of London. They
198 are my Baker Street Irregulars, just a shame
199 Wilson wasn't there. Odd, he's usually around
200 to keep them in line.

201 Lestrade: We're usually rounding them up for pinching
202 fruits from the local stands!

203 Holmes: You'd be amazed what the little ones can find
204 out. No one pays attention to a child when
205 they speak.

206 Lestrade: We followed the prince and pauper clue to the
207 Bar of Gold Opium den, where you solved the
208 murder of Neville Saint-Clair by proving that
209 the killer Hugh Boone and Saint-Clair were one
210 in the same!

211 Holmes: Quite a jolly good romp that was. The next
212 clue said to:
213 'Head to where a Noble Bachelor lost his bride
214 To a man from a faraway tribe.
215 She came from afar only to return with her
216 first love by her side.
217 To find your friend go to the square,
218 Where the church of the dragon slaying Saint
219 stands unaware.'

220 Lestrade: St George's in Hanover Square, the location of
221 the tragic tale of Lord Robert and his
222 American bride. Then we found a baffling clue
223 that has me stymied!

224 Holmes: Really Lestrade? It's no wonder you come to
225 me for help so often if such a simple thing
226 eludes you.

227 Lestrade: (*growl*) You insult me?

228 Holmes: No insult meant my good man, just an
229 observation. Here, I shall read it again;
230 'While your senses are keen
231 And your powers of observation incomparable,
232 There is one whose sense of scent is beyond
233 what can be seen.
234 Go to a place where the most loyal of hearts
235 resides,
236 A best friend to which any man would strive.'

237 Lestrade: And that makes sense? Terrible rhymes by the
238 way.

239 Holmes: It does make sense and it would seem we have
240 arrived.

241 Lestrade: Arrived where?

242 Holmes: Number 3 Pinchin Lane, the residence of Mr.
243 Sherman. But he is not who we are here to
244 see.

245 Lestrade: Who then?

246 Holmes: Toby of course! A more stalwart and true
247 companion you will never find!

248 *(SFX whistle, running dog feet)*

249 Toby: *(barking)*

250 Lestrade: Is that a dog? I've never seen such an ugly,
251 lop-eared creature!

252 Toby: *(panting and licking)*

253 Holmes: That's what Watson has said. Good boy, Toby,
254 good lad. Don't let them get to you. They
255 just don't understand a good hound, do they
256 boy?

257 Toby *(woofs and whines)*

258 Holmes: It would seem we have our next clue here on
259 Toby's collar.

260 *(SFX paper rustling)*

261 Holmes: I'll let Mr. Sherman know you've been a good
262 help, as always, and give you something for
263 your troubles! Off you go!

264 Toby: *(woofs)*

265 *(SFX dog running away)*

266 Lestrade: You consider that beast a companion on the
267 same level as Watson? I'd be insulted.

268 Holmes: Nonsense, they're both loyal and true! Now,
269 let us see this next clue. I feel our chase
270 is coming to an end!

271 *(SFX paper being unfolded)*

272 Lestrade: Dog hair everywhere. I hope this is mud and
273 not something else! I'm getting to it Holmes!
274 Let's see...
275 'Congratulations on getting to this level,
276 I'm happy to say your friend is in fine
277 fettle.
278 While every tale begins it also must end,
279 Go back to where we began to find this end,
280 As well as your friend.'

281 Holmes: (*chuckling*) Come Lestrade, on to the payoff of
282 our grand adventure!

283 Lestrade: How can you be laughing at a time like this?
284 Are we any closer to finding Watson?

285 Holmes: It's all as plain as the writing on the page!
286 Come! Off to Baker Street where our adventure
287 started!

288 (*SFX traveling music*)

289 (*SFX door opens and quiet foot steps on stairs*)

290 Holmes: (*whispers*) Quietly Lestrade, quietly. Wouldn't
291 want to spook our prey too soon now would we?
292 Ready... on three... one... two... THREE!

293 (*SFX door opens, party horns and poppers*)

294 GROUP: Surprise! Happy Birthday Sherlock!

295 Holmes: My friends! Thank you, thank you one and all.

296 Lestrade: Did we fool you Holmes?

297 Holmes: Top notch acting Lestrade and you too Mrs.
298 Hudson.

299 Mrs. Hudson: It was all John's idea, Sherlock. Said he
300 wanted to do something nice for your birthday.

301 Watson: Hope we didn't worry you too much.

302 Holmes: Not at all old man, not at all, jolly good
303 fun!

304 Lestrade: I thought I almost gave it away a time or two.

305 Holmes: Not even close, your acting is almost good
306 enough for the Theatre Royal!

307 Lestrade: Some of those rhymes Watson, just what were
308 you thinking?

309 Watson: *(grumbling)* I'm a Doctor, I never claimed to
310 be a poet!

311 *(SFX merrymaking and conversations that gradually die down)*
312 *(SFX crackling fireplace)*

313 Watson: Holmes, when did you really figure it all out?

314 Holmes: What do you mean, Watson?

315 Watson: Come now, I'm just wondering when you knew it
316 was all an excuse to get you out of the flat
317 so we could prepare your party.

318 Holmes: I was suspicious that the owners of every
319 place I was directed to were not home.

320 Watson: They wanted to be here when they heard I was
321 throwing a birthday party for you.

322 Holmes: I am simply amazed you were able to convince
323 my brother Mycroft to leave the Diogenes club
324 to attend! As much as he hates crowds and
325 noise, after all.

326 Watson: He leapt at the chance when I asked.

327 Holmes: It is nice to spend time with old friends.
328 *(SFX violin being tuned)*

329 Watson: You knew early on!

330 Holmes: I suspected when Lestrade showed up followed
331 by the first letter. Awfully coincidental
332 timing. But the thing that let me know it was
333 you was the clue about Irene Adler.

334 Watson: Really? How so?

335 Holmes: The clues consisted of cases we have we shared
336 and that you have chronicled.

337 Watson: True...

338 Holmes: Ah, but the tale of Ms. Adler and the King of
339 Bohemia is one you have not published. It is
340 memorable to us; but unknown to the public, as
341 yet. And the king and Miss Adler.

342 Watson: And of those four I would be the only one to
343 do this on your birthday. One mistake and it
344 ruined the whole game.

345 *(SFX plucking strings, tuning)*

346 Holmes: On the contrary Watson! It was a most
347 enjoyable birthday! You had me revisit some
348 of our interesting cases and reminded me that
349 while I do not have a case now, one will find
350 its way to us! Who knows what mystery
351 tomorrow will bring!

352 Watson: Jolly good, Holmes! Happy Birthday and a wish
353 for many more adventures!

354 *(SFX violin playing and fade out)*