

“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
Either	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 (E)- 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 doubled 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? This
10 brings to mind a rather personal case,
11 personal because after all, I was directly
12 involved in it!

13 (*SFX violin played randomly and carelessly*)

14 (*SFX footsteps on stairs*)

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

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

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

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

26 Holmes: Pity. Where is Moriarty when you need him?

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

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

32 (*SFX distant door chime*)

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

36 Holmes: Thank you Lestrade.

37 (*SFX footsteps on stairs*)

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

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

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

45 *(SFX letter being opened)*

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

47 Lestrade: Is everything alright Holmes?

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

50 Lestrade: Heading out? To where? What was in the
51 letter? What the devil is going on Holmes!
52 You have to tell me something!

53 Holmes: Of course, Lestrade, of course I will tell
54 you! It's mystery dear man! Sent by
55 providence itself. Here, read this while I
56 get dressed.

57 Lestrade: Holmes, I understand you enjoy games and
58 mysteries. Play my game and you will win
59 your prize. I've captured your Watson and
60 hold him close. Follow my clues and you may
61 find him alive. Go to the place where red
62 hair was only a red herring.

63 *(SFX paper rustling)*

64 Lestrade: Good lord man! Watson has been captured!
65 Just what does this riddle mean?

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

70 Lestrade: The bloke who's shop was being used to break
71 into the Coburg branch of the City and
72 Suburban bank?

73 Holmes: Precisely! Come Lestrade! The game is
74 afoot!

75 (*SFX transitional music*)

76 Lestrade: It would appear that Mr. Wilson is not here
77 at the moment.

78 Holmes: No matter, we can still look around to see
79 if something is out of the ordinary or
80 helpful to us in anyway.

81 Lestrade: Dreadful business about the attempted
82 robbery over there. To imagine someone
83 would tunnel into a bank to try and rob it!
84 They could have been caught so many times.

85 Holmes: Heard of the affair did you? To be honest I
86 did find that concept clever in its own way.
87 They might have gotten away with it too if
88 they had not gotten greedy and suspended
89 their cover to get Mr. Wilson out of the
90 shop.

91 Lestrade: Of course I heard of it. Most of Scotland
92 Yard spoke of it. I have to say that
93 Inspector Jones is quite impressed with you
94 and speaks of your cases together often.

95 Holmes: Not a bad lad. Still needs some seasoning
96 but has the makings of a good Inspector.
97 Hmm... I think we may have found our clue.

98 Lestrade: So soon?

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

100 Lestrade: Is that a tin of..

101 Holmes: Yes, a tin of Captain Red's Pickled Herring.
102 Clearly the "red herring" our gamester
103 referred to. And here is another letter
104 attached to the bottom of the tin.

105 (*SFX rustling paper*)

106 Holmes: The first clue is always the easiest and the
107 most obvious. To find your dear Watson you
108 must continue our game but not a foot. Go
109 to the former residence of the Woman and you
110 will find your next clue where a scandal was
111 prevented befalling Bohemia.

112 Lestrade: Clearly you know what this means Holmes, I
113 can see it in your eyes. Would you care to
114 clue in a mere mortal which does not benefit
115 your insight?

116 Holmes: Ha! You jest, neither my mind or my powers
117 of observation spring from any supernatural
118 source but simply from study and due
119 diligence. As for the clue it is obvious if
120 you had the proper background information.
121 Come my dear Lestrade, let us find a cab and
122 go to our next destination!

123 Lestrade: And where is that?

124 Holmes: Why to Briony Lodge and the location of one
125 of my few failures!

126 Lestrade: Funny, you don't look like a man about to
127 have a failure rubbed in his face.

128 Holmes: Quite the contrary, while I did fail it was
129 to a singularly remarkable individual! One
130 I would not shy away from matching wits with
131 once again!

132 (*SFX travelling music*)

133 (*SFX knocking and a door opens*)

134 Housekeeper: Hello Mr. Holmes. I was told to expect you.
135 Please come in.

136 Lestrade: You were told to expect Holmes? By whom?
137 What did they look like?

138 Housekeeper: No use asking me. Had on a long coat with a
139 scarf around his face. Some dark glasses
140 and a hat pulled low. Spoke in a gruff kind
141 of voice.

142 Lestrade: Did he say anything to you?

143 Housekeeper: Yeah, gave me a few shillings to let him in
144 and leave something. Says that Sherlock
145 Holmes would be coming later to collect what
146 he had left. And before you asks I don't
147 know nothing about what he left or wheres he
148 left it.

149 Holmes: Thank you my good lady, I think I already
150 know where it is and won't be a moment.

151 Housekeeper: I'll leave you to it then. Don't expect me
152 to make you tea or bring you anything.
153 After what you done to my lady you're lucky
154 I even let you in! Make sure you close the
155 door when you leave.

156 *(SFX retreating footsteps)*

157 Lestrade: What a remarkably rude woman. It's clear
158 that she doesn't like you Holmes.

159 *(SFX footsteps)*

160 Holmes: *(slightly amused)* She is justified Lestrade.
161 I was a key in making her mistress flee the
162 country.

163 Lestrade: The one you say managed to pull one over on
164 you during a case.

165 Holmes: Indeed. She was quite the woman.

166 *(SFX sound of a painting pulled from a wall)*

167 Holmes: As expected. Right behind the painting.
168 How unoriginal.

169 Lestrade: Well? What is the clue this time? Where
170 are we going?

171 Holmes: First, we are going to see if Watson is
172 really missing, then we will make a side
173 trip to dispatch some of my Irregulars and
174 then onto the location of this clue!

175 Lestrade: You've done well so far and I hope you have
176 been entertained with this walk down memory
177 lane. Yet our time together is not over, for
178 you have only just begun. Got to a place
179 where dreams go to die. Where an unblemished
180 prince goes in but a twisted pauper emerges
181 while a wife cries.

182 (*SFX paper rustling*)

183 Lestrade: What a mess. But let me guess, you know where
184 it is?

185 (*SFX travelling music*)

186 (*SFX hoof steps*)

187 Lestrade: So what is it we know so far Holmes? We've
188 been hither and yon across London and we're
189 not even one step closer to finding Watson
190 than we were this morning.

191 Holmes: Do you really think so?

192 Lestrade: Don't you? What have we really found out I
193 ask you? And you just sit there with that
194 confounded ghost of a smile on your face!
195 Aren't you worried for your friend?!

196 Holmes: On the contrary, I believe that Watson is
197 quite safe.

198 Lestrade: But when we went to his practice we were told
199 he had an appointment at noon on 56 Strand
200 flat number 4, but he never showed up.
201 Something must have happened.

202 Holmes: It is a possibility. Odd, I'm sure that I
203 heard Watson mention 56 Strand before but I
204 can't quite place it, I believe he was reading
205 a magazine at the time.

206 Lestrade: What does that have to do with anything?!

207 Holmes: Oh nothing, maybe another one of Captain Red's
208 pickled Herrings.

209 Lestrade: Joking?! Now?

210 Holmes: Quite right my good man. I do feel that we
211 are getting close to the resolution of our
212 travels. So, let us go over what we have
213 learned.

214 Lestrade: We followed clues to a pawn shop where you
215 foiled a bank robbery and then to a residence
216 you claim both a triumph and a failure but
217 won't tell me more.

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

219 Lestrade: We went to Watson's practice to check on him,
220 then over to speak to some children, (*grumble*)
221 little street urchins!

222 Holmes: Those children are perhaps some of the
223 greatest unsung heroes in all of London. They
224 are my Baker Street Irregulars, just a shame
225 that Wilson was not there. Odd, he's usually
226 around to keep them in line.

227 Lestrade: But urchins Holmes? We're usually rounding
228 them up for pinching fruits from the local
229 stands!

230 Holmes: As I said, young Wilson usually keeps the boys
231 out of trouble. You'd be amazed what the
232 little ones can find out. No one pays
233 attention to a child when they speak.

234 Lestrade: Then we followed the prince and pauper clue to
235 the Bar of Gold Opium den, where you solved
236 the murder of Neville Saint-Clair by proving
237 that the killer Hugh Boone and Saint-Clair
238 were one in the same man!

239 Holmes: Quite a jolly god romp that one was. The next
240 clue led us to where a Noble Bachelor lost his
241 bride to a man from a far away tribe. She
242 came from afar and returned with her first
243 love by her side. To find your friend go to
244 the square where the church of the dragon
245 slaying Saint stands.

246 Lestrade: Which was St George's in Hanover Square, the
247 location of the tragic tale of Lord Robert and
248 his American bride. Pity that she was already
249 married.

250 Holmes: Not her fault, she thought her first husband
251 dead at the hands of Apache raiders, the
252 "tribe" our friend refers to.

253 Lestrade: Hmm... then to Streatham, for a broken crown and
254 a rift between father and son. Where a
255 niece's pure heart was betrayed by a black
256 heart. I knew this one, the banker Alexander
257 Holder accused his son Arthur of breaking a
258 beryl coronet but the lad was trying to wrest
259 it from the true thief. Bad business all
260 around, that poor girl... what was her name?

261 Holmes: Mary, the poor girl taken advantage of by the
262 notorious criminal George Burnwell. I fear
263 she still has not recovered her faith in love.

264 Lestrade: Then we found a baffling clue that has me
265 stymied!

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

269 Lestrade: (*growl*) You do know I'm sitting right here as
270 you insult me.

271 Holmes: No insult meant my good man, just an
272 observation. Here, I shall read it again.
273 While your senses are keen and your powers of
274 observation incomparable, there is one whose
275 sense of scent is beyond compare. Go to a
276 place where the most loyal of hearts resides,
277 a best friend to which any man would strive.

278 Lestrade: And that makes sense? Terrible rhymes by the
279 way.

280 Holmes: It does make sense and it would seem we have
281 arrived.

282 Lestrade: Arrived where?

283 Holmes: Number 3 Pinchin Lane, the residence of Mr.
284 Sherman. But he is not who we are here to
285 see.

286 Lestrade: Will you tell me who we are to see then?

287 Holmes: We're here to see Toby of course! A more
288 stalwart and true companion you will never
289 find!

290 *(SFX whistle followed by barking and running feet)*

291 Lestrade: Good lord man! Is that really a dog? I've
292 never seen such an ugly, lop-eared creature!

293 *(SFX dog panting and licking)*

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

298 *(SFX dog woofs and pants)*

299 Holmes: And it would seem we have our next clue here
300 on Toby's collar.

301 *(SFX paper rustling)*

302 Holmes: Good boy Toby, good boy. I will let Mr.
303 Sherman know you have been a good help as
304 always and give you something for your
305 troubles! Off you go!

306 *(SFX dog being patted on the side, woofs and runs off)*

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

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

312 *(SFX paper being unfolded)*

313 Lestrade: Dog hair everywhere. I hope this is mud and
314 not something else! Yes, I'm getting to it
315 Holmes! Let's see... Congratulations on getting
316 to this level, I'm happy to say your friend is
317 in fine fettle. While every tale must end, it
318 also needs a beginning. To find the end as
319 well as your friend go back to where this
320 chase began.

321 Holmes: (*chuckling*) Jolly good, jolly good indeed.
322 Come Lestrade. On to the payoff of our grand
323 adventure!

324 Lestrade: How can you be laughing at a time like this?
325 What does this mean? Where are we going and
326 are we any closer to finding Watson?

327 Holmes: Why of course old man! It's all as plain as
328 the writing on the page! Come! Off to Baker
329 Street where our adventure started!

330 (*SFX traveling music*)

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

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

335 (*SFX door opens, sounds of party horns and poppers*)

336 GROUP: Surprise! Happy Birthday Sherlock!

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

338 Lestrade: Did we fool you Holmes?

339 Holmes: Top notch acting Lestrade and you too Mrs.
340 Hudson.

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

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

344 Holmes: Not at all old man, not at all, jolly good
345 fun!

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

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

349 (*SFX merrymaking and conversations that gradually die down*)
350 (*SFX crackling fireplace*)

351 Watson: Well Holmes, when did you really figure it all
352 out?

353 Holmes: What do you mean Watson?

354 Watson: Come now, I know you knew what was going on.
355 I'm just wondering when you knew it was all an
356 excuse to get you out of the flat so we could
357 prepare your party.

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

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

362 Holmes: I am simply amazed you were able to convince
363 my brother Mycroft to leave the Diogenes club
364 and attend this gathering! As much as he
365 hates crowds and noise after all.

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

367 Holmes: It was nice to spend time with old friends.
368 (*SFX violin being tuned*)

369 Watson: You didn't distract me Holmes, I know your
370 tricks by now. You're trying to be polite
371 which tells me you knew early on.

372 Holmes: I suspected when Lestrade showed up followed
373 by the first letter. Awfully coincidental
374 timing. But the thing that let me know it was
375 you was the clue about Irene Adler.

376 Watson: Really? What about it gave the game away?

377 Holmes: While the clues consisted of cases we have
378 worked on together and that you have
379 chronicled the one about Ms. Adler and the
380 King of Bohemia is one you have not published.
381 While it is memorable to us it is unknown to
382 the public as yet. A fact you promised the
383 king. So the only ones that would have known
384 any of the details of the case would be the
385 two of us, the king and Ms. Adler.

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

389 *(SFX plucking strings, tuning)*

390 Holmes: On the contrary Watson! It was a most
391 enjoyable birthday! You had me revisit some
392 of our interesting cases and reminded me that
393 even though I do not have a case now one will
394 find its way to us! And after all, who know
395 what mystery tomorrow will bring!

396 Watson: Jolly good show Holmes! Happy Birthday and a
397 wish for many more adventures!

398 *(SFX violin playing and fade out)*