

“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 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: (*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: Heading out? To where? What was in the
52 letter? What the devil is going on Holmes!
53 You have to tell me something!

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

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

64 *(SFX paper rustling)*

65 Lestrade: Good lord man! Watson's been captured!
66 What does this riddle mean?

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

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

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

76 (*SFX transitional music*)

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

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

82 Lestrade: Dreadful business about the attempted
83 robbery. Imagine, tunneling into a bank to
84 try and rob it! They could have been caught
85 so many times.

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

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

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

99 Lestrade: So soon?

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

101 Lestrade: Is that a tin of...

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

106 *(SFX rustling paper)*

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

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

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

125 Lestrade: And where is that?

126 Holmes: Why to Briony Lodge and the location of one
127 of my few failures!

128 Lestrade: You don't look like a man about to have a
129 failure rubbed in his face.

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

134 *(SFX travelling music)*

135 *(SFX knocking, door opens)*

136 Housekeeper: Hello Mr. Holmes. I was told to expect you.
137 Please come in.

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

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

144 Lestrade: What did he say?

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

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

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

158 *(SFX retreating footsteps)*

159 Lestrade: What a remarkably rude woman. It's clear
160 she doesn't like you Holmes.

161 *(SFX footsteps)*

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

165 Lestrade: The one that pulled one over on you during a
166 case.

167 Holmes: Indeed. She was quite the woman.

168 *(SFX wood scraping)*

169 Holmes: As expected. Right behind the painting.
170 How unoriginal.

171 Lestrade: Well? What's the clue this time? Where are
172 we going?

173 Holmes: First, we're going to see if Watson is
174 really missing, then we'll make a side trip
175 to dispatch some of my Irregulars and then
176 onto the location of this clue!

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

184 (*SFX paper rustling*)

185 Lestrade: What a mess. Let me guess, you know where it
186 is?

187 (*SFX travelling music*)

188 (*SFX hoof steps*)

189 Lestrade: We've been hither and yon across London and
190 we're not even one step closer to finding
191 Watson than we were this morning.

192 Holmes: Do you really think so?

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

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

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

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

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

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

210 Lestrade: Joking?! At a time like this?!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

280 Lestrade: And that makes sense? Terrible rhymes by the
281 way.

282 Holmes: It does make sense and it would seem we have
283 arrived.

284 Lestrade: Arrived where?

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

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

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

292 *(SFX whistle, running feet)*

293 Toby: *(barking)*

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

296 Toby: *(panting and licking)*

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

301 Toby *(woofs and whines)*

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

304 *(SFX paper rustling)*

305 Holmes: Good boy Toby. I'll let Mr. Sherman know
306 you've been a good help as always and give you
307 something for your troubles! Off you go!

308 Toby: *(woofs)*

309 *(SFX dog running away)*

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

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

315 *(SFX paper being unfolded)*

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

324 Holmes: *(chuckling)* Jolly good, jolly good indeed.
325 Come Lestrade. On to the payoff of our grand
326 adventure!

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

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

333 *(SFX traveling music)*

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

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

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

339 GROUP: Surprise! Happy Birthday Sherlock!

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

341 Lestrade: Did we fool you Holmes?

342 Holmes: Top notch acting Lestrade and you too Mrs.
343 Hudson.

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

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

347 Holmes: Not at all old man, not at all, jolly good
348 fun!

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

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

352 (*SFX merrymaking and conversations that gradually die down*)
353 (*SFX crackling fireplace*)

354 Watson: Well Holmes, when did you really figure it all
355 out?

356 Holmes: What do you mean Watson?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

392 *(SFX plucking strings, tuning)*

393 Holmes: On the contrary Watson! It was a most
394 enjoyable birthday! You had me revisit some
395 of our interesting cases and reminded me that
396 while I do not have a case now, one will find
397 its way to us! Who knows what mystery
398 tomorrow will bring!

399 Watson: Jolly good Holmes! Happy Birthday and a wish
400 for many more adventures!

401 *(SFX violin playing and fade out)*