

“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: 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;
60 'Play my game and you shall win your prize.
61 I've captured your Watson but where I hold
62 him I'm not sharing.
63 Follow my clues and you may find him alive.
64 Go to where red hair was only a red
65 herring.'

66 (*SFX paper rustling*)

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

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

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

76 Holmes: Precisely! Come Lestrade! The game is
77 afoot!

78 (*SFX transitional music*)

79 Lestrade: It would appear that Mr. Wilson is not here
80 at the moment.

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

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

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

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

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

101 Lestrade: So soon?

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

103 Lestrade: Is that a tin of...

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

108 (*SFX rustling paper*)

109 Holmes: 'The first clue is always the easiest and
110 the most obvious to spot.
111 To find your dear Watson you must continue
112 our game not a foot but at a trot.
113 Go to the former residence of "the Woman"
114 and you will find,
115 Your next clue where a Bohemian scandal was
116 prevented yet justice unkind.'

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

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

128 Lestrade: And where is that?

129 Holmes: Why to Briony Lodge and the location of one
130 of my few failures!

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

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

137 (*SFX travelling music*)

138 (*SFX knocking, door opens*)

139 Housekeeper: Hello Mr. Holmes. I was told to expect you.
140 Come in if you must.

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

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

147 Lestrade: What did he say?

148 Housekeeper: Said he needed to leave something and gave
149 me a few schillings for me trouble. Says
150 that Sherlock Holmes would be coming later
151 to collect what he left. And before you
152 asks I don't know nothing about what he left
153 or wheres he left it.

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

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

161 *(SFX retreating footsteps)*

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

164 *(SFX footsteps)*

165 Holmes: *(slightly amused)* She is justified Lestrade.
166 I was key in making her mistress flee the
167 country.

168 Lestrade: The one that pulled one over on you during a
169 case.

170 Holmes: Indeed. She was quite the woman.

171 *(SFX wood scraping)*

172 Holmes: As expected. Right behind the painting.
173 How unoriginal.

174 Lestrade: Well? What's the clue this time? Where are
175 we going?

176 Holmes: First, we're going to see if Watson is
177 really missing, then we'll make a side trip
178 to dispatch some of my Irregulars and then
179 onto the location of this clue! Here, read
180 this.

181 Lestrade: 'You've done well and I hope you've been
182 entertained
183 Stay with me on this walk down memory lane.
184 Our time together is not over, for you have
185 only just begun.
186 Solve my clues quickly to catch me on the run.
187 Go to a place where dreams go to die.
188 Where an unblemished prince becomes a twisted
189 pauper while a wife cries.'

190 (*SFX paper rustling*)

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

193 (*SFX travelling music*)

194 (*SFX hoof steps*)

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

198 Holmes: Do you really think so?

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

203 Holmes: On the contrary, I believe that Watson is
204 quite safe.

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

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

213 Lestrade: Do the numbers fifty-six, four and twelve
214 linked with Strand mean anything?!

215 Holmes: Perhaps nothing, maybe one of Captain Red's
216 pickled Herrings.

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

218 Holmes: Quite right my good man. I do feel that we
219 are getting close to the resolution of our
220 travels. So, let us go over what we have
221 learned.

222 Lestrade: We followed clues to a pawn shop where you
223 foiled a bank robbery and then to a residence
224 you claim both a triumph and a failure but
225 won't tell me more.

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

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

230 Holmes: Those children are perhaps some of the
231 greatest unsung heroes in all of London. They
232 are my Baker Street Irregulars, just a shame
233 Wilson wasn't there. Odd, he's usually around
234 to keep them in line.

235 Lestrade: But urchins Holmes? We're usually rounding
236 them up for pinching fruits from the local
237 stands!

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

242 Lestrade: We followed the prince and pauper clue to the
243 Bar of Gold Opium den, where you solved the
244 murder of Neville Saint-Clair by proving that
245 the killer Hugh Boone and Saint-Clair were one
246 in the same!

247 Holmes: Quite a jolly good romp that was. The next
248 clue said to;
249 'Head to where a Noble Bachelor lost his bride
250 To a man from a far away tribe.
251 She came from afar only to return with her
252 first love by her side.
253 To find your friend go to the square,
254 Where the church of the dragon slaying Saint
255 stands unaware.'

256 Lestrade: Which was St George's in Hanover Square, the
257 location of the tragic tale of Lord Robert and
258 his American bride. Pity that she was already
259 married.

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

263 Lestrade: Hmm... then to Streatham;
264 'Seek you a broken crown and a rift between
265 father and son.
266 Where a family's plight was almost undone.
267 Where a pure hearted maid alas was betrayed,
268 The blame on a black hearted naïve can be
269 laid.'
270 This referred to the banker Alexander Holder
271 accusing his son Arthur of breaking a beryl
272 coronet but the lad was trying to wrest it
273 from the true thief. Bad business all around,
274 that poor girl... what was her name?

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

278 Lestrade: Then we found a baffling clue that has me
279 stymied!

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

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

285 Holmes: No insult meant my good man, just an
286 observation. Here, I shall read it again;
287 'While your senses are keen
288 And your powers of observation incomparable,
289 There is one whose sense of scent is beyond
290 what can be seen.
291 Go to a place where the most loyal of hearts
292 resides,
293 A best friend to which any man would strive.'

294 Lestrade: And that makes sense? Terrible rhymes by the
295 way.

296 Holmes: It does make sense and it would seem we have
297 arrived.

298 Lestrade: Arrived where?

299 Holmes: Number 3 Pinchin Lane, the residence of Mr.
300 Sherman. But he is not who we are here to
301 see.

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

303 Holmes: We're here to see Toby of course! A more
304 stalwart and true companion you will never
305 find!

306 *(SFX whistle, running feet)*

307 Toby: *(barking)*

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

310 Toby: *(panting and licking)*

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

315 Toby *(woofs and whines)*

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

318 *(SFX paper rustling)*

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

322 Toby: *(woofs)*

323 *(SFX dog running away)*

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

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

329 *(SFX paper being unfolded)*

330 Lestrade: Dog hair everywhere. I hope this is mud and
331 not something else! I'm getting to it Holmes!
332 Let's see...

333 'Congratulations on getting to this level,
334 I'm happy to say your friend is in fine
335 fettle.

336 While every tale begins it also must end,
337 Go back to where we began to find this end,
338 As well as your friend.'

339 Holmes: *(chuckling)* Jolly good, jolly good indeed.
340 Come Lestrade. On to the payoff of our grand
341 adventure!

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

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

348 *(SFX traveling music)*

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

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

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

354 GROUP: Surprise! Happy Birthday Sherlock!

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

356 Lestrade: Did we fool you Holmes?

357 Holmes: Top notch acting Lestrade and you too Mrs.
358 Hudson.

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

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

362 Holmes: Not at all old man, not at all, jolly good
363 fun!

364 Lestrade: I thought I almost gave it away a time or two.
365 Some of those rhymes Watson, just what were
366 you thinking?

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

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

371 *(SFX merrymaking and conversations that gradually die down)*

372 *(SFX crackling fireplace)*

373 Watson: Well Holmes, when did you really figure it all
374 out?

375 Holmes: What do you mean Watson?

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

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

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

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

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

389 Holmes: It was nice to spend time with old friends.

390 *(SFX violin being tuned)*

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

394 Holmes: I suspected when Lestrade showed up followed
395 by the first letter. Awfully coincidental
396 timing. But the thing that let me know it was
397 you was the clue about Irene Adler.

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

399 Holmes: While the clues consisted of cases we have
400 worked on together and that you have
401 chronicled the one about Ms. Adler and the
402 King of Bohemia is one you have not published.
403 While it is memorable to us it is unknown to
404 the public as yet. A fact you promised the
405 king. So the only ones that would have known
406 any of the details of the case would be the
407 two of us, the king and Ms. Adler.

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

411 *(SFX plucking strings, tuning)*

412 Holmes: On the contrary Watson! It was a most
413 enjoyable birthday! You had me revisit some
414 of our interesting cases and reminded me that
415 while I do not have a case now, one will find
416 its way to us! Who knows what mystery
417 tomorrow will bring!

418 Watson: Jolly good Holmes! Happy Birthday and a wish
419 for many more adventures!

420 *(SFX violin playing and fade out)*