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**SHERLOCK'S FIRST ADVENTURE**

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# Sherlock's First Adventure

A two-act comedy mystery

by Craig Sodaro



Meriwether Publishing Ltd.

**Contemporary Drama Service**

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# Sherlock's First Adventure

A two-act comedy mystery

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## CAST

<b>Monique</b> .....	A young student
<b>Carlotta</b> .....	Her friend
<b>Ruda</b> .....	A maid
<b>Miss Klegg</b> .....	The school cook
<b>Miss Butterworth</b> .....	The headmistress
<b>Larry Lestrade</b> .....	A student
<b>Sherlock Holmes</b> .....	Another student
<b>John Watson</b> .....	Another student
<b>James Moriarty</b> .....	Another student
<b>Helen Stoner</b> .....	Another student
<b>Hetty Hudson</b> .....	Another student
<b>Irene Adler</b> .....	Another student
<b>Letecia Windsor</b> .....	Another student
<b>Rosa Medici</b> .....	Another student
<b>Lady Windsor</b> .....	Wife of a government official
<b>Signora Medici</b> .....	Wife of an ambassador
<b>Madame Bonaparte</b> .....	Monique's mother
<b>Señor Goya</b> .....	Carlotta's father
<b>Constable Bing</b> .....	The local policeman
<b>Cyril</b> .....	Constable Bing's deputy
<b>Duchess Simpson</b> .....	A wealthy aristocrat
<b>Hortense</b> .....	Duchess Simpson's young daughter

*(Casting Note: Several parts are easily altered to suit different genders. Señor Goya, for example, can easily become Señora Goya or Lady Windsor can become Lord Windsor to suit the needs of the director.)*

It's interesting to note the following in the program:

Larry Lestrade would grow up to become a police detective in London and work with Holmes on a number of cases.

John Watson would stay Holmes' lifelong friend and associate and record Holmes' adventures.

Helen Stoner would become the heroine in "Adventure of the Speckled Band," hiring Holmes to find out who killed her sister, Julia.

Henry Baskerville would figure in the story “Hound of the Baskervilles.”

Irene Adler would become one of the few women Sherlock Holmes ever admired. Her appearance would be in “A Scandal in Bohemia.”

Hetty Hudson would grow up to be Holmes’ long-suffering landlady at 221B Baker Street.

James Moriarty would indeed become a doctor and one of the most notorious criminals ever. Holmes would face Dr. Moriarty in a number of exciting cases.

### *Synopsis of Scenes*

#### **ACT I:**

Scene One — The Great Room of Butterworth Academy, midnight of a spring day, 1885.

Scene Two — The following morning.

Scene Three — That evening.

#### **ACT II:**

Scene One — The following morning.

Scene Two — Late that night.

Scene Three — The following morning.

#### **Synopsis:**

When two students disappear from Butterworth Academy, a boarding school just north of London, the students and headmistress are perplexed, but not alarmed. They launch a search for the girls but turn up nothing. John Watson is hoping that this will be the first real crime his good friend Sherlock Holmes, another student at the school, will be able to solve. It looks like Watson gets his wish when the two girls’ parents show

up with ransom notes they have received. At the same time, a psychic, Madame Lulu, appears, guaranteeing that she'll find the kidnapped girls. The inept Constable Bing and his deputy, Cyril, don't have much faith in Madame Lulu and begin their own investigation.

When two more students turn up missing, Sherlock realizes someone very close to the school is behind the scheme. But then, as if by magic, Madame Lulu locates the first pair of missing girls after their parents have paid her more than the ransom to do so. The girls and parents go home very relieved and happy. Sherlock sets a plan into motion with the help of his father to snare the criminal.

As expected, the following morning, Madame Lulu returns the second kidnapped pair to their parents who again have paid her for her services. A duchess arrives to enroll her daughter in the school. Only a few hours later, the girl is kidnapped, just like the other four. However, this time, Sherlock follows the kidnapper.

In the morning, Sherlock turns up in the nick of time to incriminate Madame Lulu and the headmistress, revealed now as sisters, in the con game. Constable Bing finally admits he's thankful Sherlock was able to solve the crime by using his sister as bait and his mother as the Duchess.

## *PRODUCTION NOTES*

### **Costumes**

Cast should dress as wealthy people did in 1885 Europe. Leticia and Rosa should wear dresses. Leticia also wears a fur coat and has a distinctive hair clip in her hair. Madame Lulu wears a colorful dress, scarves, beads, bracelets, a turban, and tinted glasses throughout the play. Miss Butterworth wears a scarf. Sherlock will need his classic deerstalker hat and overcoat for the final two scenes of the play.

### **Props**

Pen and paper  
Bowl or plate of hard buns  
Porridge bowls  
Four ransom notes  
Four business cards  
Eight candles  
Two small suitcases  
Crumpled paper  
Pencil  
Flashlight  
Key  
Fake pistol  
Rope and gag  
Buckle from a suitcase  
Pens/checkbooks

### **The Setting**

The entire play takes place in the Great Room of the Butterworth Academy located north of London in the spring of 1885. There are wing entrances right and left, right leading to main door of the school and upstairs, left leading to kitchen, upstairs and backyard. Window Up left with fireplace at center. Above the fireplace hangs the portrait of a very crotchety old man, Grandfather Butterworth. There is a screen Up Right. Down Left is a table set with a few chairs. Benches here and there at right. There is a small table at left with a telephone on it. The room is pleasant, sunny and nicely decorated.

ACT I  
Scene One

1  
2  
3  
4 *SETTING:* The Great Room of the Butterworth Academy north of  
5 London. Midnight, spring, 1885.

6 *AT RISE:* MONIQUE and CARLOTTA enter left holding a candle. Both  
7 girls have slight accents.  
8

9 MONIQUE: (*Frightened*) I'm scared, Carlotta!

10 CARLOTTA: There's NOTHING to be afraid of.

11 MONIQUE: Miss Butterworth said that if we were ever caught  
12 out of bed past eight o'clock, Miss Klegg would take a  
13 switch to us!

14 CARLOTTA: (*Laughing*) Oh, Monique, you are such a rooster!

15 MONIQUE: I think you mean "chicken," and *oui!* I am chicken!  
16 Didn't anyone tell you what happened to that boy, Charles?

17 CARLOTTA: You believe those stories Miss Klegg tells?

18 MONIQUE: He is still in the hospital! And he cries all the time!

19 CARLOTTA: All because Miss Klegg scared him? (*Laughs.*) I do  
20 not think that is possible.

21 MONIQUE: I wish my parents had never sent me to this school!

22 CARLOTTA: Why? Then we'd never have met and become best  
23 friends. Besides, all the embassy families send their  
24 children here. It's close to London, but not too close.

25 MONIQUE: I wish I were home in my own bed in Paris.

26 CARLOTTA: And I in Barcelona. But this *is* exciting, no? I  
27 mean ... finding this message ... I wonder who it's from.  
28 (*CARLOTTA pulls a small note from her pocket.*)

29 MONIQUE: Read it again!

30 CARLOTTA: (*Reading*) If you want a special treat, something  
31 that can't be beat, meet me in the library at twelve-o-one ...  
32 and you're sure to have fun!

33 MONIQUE: But what can we do here at midnight? Everyone is  
34 asleep.

35 CARLOTTA: Maybe go for a moonlit hike.



1     **MONIQUE:** It's cloudy tonight.  
2     **CARLOTTA:** Roast marshmallows over a fire.  
3     **MONIQUE:** There is no fire. (*During CARLOTTA's speech, a black-*  
4         *hooded FIGURE enters, grabs MONIQUE from behind and drags*  
5         *her off left.*)  
6     **CARLOTTA:** Tell ghost stories around a campfire? I know a  
7         really good one. Did I ever tell it to you? These two girls,  
8         just like us, found a map one day as they shopped. They  
9         decided to follow the path on the map. It said that a  
10        treasure awaited at the end of their journey. They began  
11        that very night ... a dark and stormy night. (*The FIGURE*  
12        *steals back on from left, approaching CARLOTTA.*) And it wasn't  
13        long before they felt like someone was watching  
14        them ... watching their every move. Monique? Monique,  
15        where are you? (*CARLOTTA turns and sees FIGURE. She lets*  
16        *out a terrible scream as FIGURE grabs her and the lights blackout.*)

17  
18  
19

### *Scene Two*

20     **SETTING:** The same, the following morning.  
21     **AT RISE:** KLEGG sets table with the help of RUDA, her assistant.  
22  
23     **RUDA:** You hear anything ... funny ... last night, Miss Klegg?  
24     **KLEGG:** You mean like a joke? Like why did the chicken cross  
25         the road?  
26     **RUDA:** Why?  
27     **KLEGG:** To get to the other side, of course. That what you mean?  
28     **RUDA:** No ... more like a scream. I thought I heard someone  
29         scream.  
30     **KLEGG:** You were havin' another one of your nightmares.  
31     **RUDA:** I don't think so. My eyes were wide open.  
32     **KLEGG:** Trouble with you, Ruda, is you don't work hard enough  
33         durin' the day. Work hard enough, nothin'll disturb your  
34         sleep. Nothin'. You can take it from me. I hit the pillow, and  
35         I sleep like a rock.

1 RUDA: I work plenty hard!  
2 KLEGG: Then prove it! Go peel those potatoes for lunch. (*MISS*  
3 *BUTTERWORTH enters left as RUDA exits left.*)  
4 MISS BUTTERWORTH: Good morning, Ruda! Beautiful day  
5 today.  
6 RUDA: (*Angrily*) Not if you're a potato! (*RUDA exits left.*)  
7 MISS BUTTERWORTH: (*Brightly*) Somebody got up on the  
8 wrong side of the beddy-bye.  
9 KLEGG: She didn't sleep well. Thought she heard a scream.  
10 MISS BUTTERWORTH: (*Laughing*) A scream? Here at  
11 Butterworth Academy? That's ridiculous. Oh, dear, Klegg  
12 ... porridge again?  
13 KLEGG: Good for the body and soul. If Charles had eaten his  
14 porridge ...  
15 MISS BUTTERWORTH: But that's three days in a row. Couldn't  
16 we spring for a proper breakfast with tomatoes and beans?  
17 KLEGG: Tomatoes and beans is a luxury, Ma'am. These  
18 younguns don't need spoilin'. They're spoiled plenty at  
19 home. Their mummies and puppies would do anythin' for  
20 the little darlin's, so here's where they'll have to learn what  
21 bad food really is! (*SHERLOCK, LARRY, JOHN, and JAMES*  
22 *enter right as KLEGG exits left.*)  
23 LARRY: I tell you, you've got it all wrong, Holmes!  
24 SHERLOCK: How so, Lestrade?  
25 LARRY: The colonel couldn't have stolen the ruby. He had an  
26 alibi.  
27 SHERLOCK: But had he been on the marshes like he'd said,  
28 there would have been a bit of peat moss stuck to his boot.  
29 Instead, there was sand.  
30 JOHN: And the jewel was housed in a box of sand.  
31 LARRY: So he stuck his boot in the box?  
32 JOHN: The sand spilled when he grabbed the jewel!  
33 LARRY: Nonsense! The countess swore he was with her at the  
34 time.  
35 SHERLOCK: You can't believe everything you hear, Lestrade.

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