

SCENE FROM *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE NORWOOD MYSTERY*

Cast:

STORYTELLER

HOLMES

WATSON

MRS HUDSON

JOHN MCFARLANE

Props:

table	packet of candy or joke cigarettes
two cups and saucers	lighter
three chairs	ashtray
newspaper	

SCENE 1: HOLMES'S ROOMS IN BAKER STREET

STORYTELLER: One morning, at his rooms in Baker Street, Sherlock Holmes was talking with his friend Dr Watson. *WATSON and HOLMES are sitting at the table. Cups and saucers and a newspaper on it. WATSON is reading his newspaper.*

WATSON: That was a wonderful breakfast, Holmes.

HOLMES: Mmm... But life in London is not what it was, Watson.

WATSON: True, Holmes. For most people life is much better now.

HOLMES: But for me, Watson, life is not so interesting.

WATSON: What do you mean, Holmes?

HOLMES: In the past I loved to read the newspaper, hoping to find some news of an interesting crime for me to investigate, or a dangerous criminal for me to catch. But where are all those clever criminals these days, Watson?

WATSON: Sometimes I don't understand you, Holmes. I like living a quiet life myself.

HOLMES picks up the newspaper on the table and starts to read. We hear a loud knocking at the door, offstage. Watson puts down his newspaper at once. HOLMES closes his newspaper slowly.

HOLMES: Who can that be?

MRS HUDSON comes in.

MRS HUDSON: Mr Holmes, there's a wild young man at the door to see you. He didn't give his name.

HOLMES: Very good, Mrs Hudson. Bring him in.

McFARLANE comes in, pushing past MRS HUDSON. He is excited, afraid, and shaking wildly.

MRS HUDSON: Here he is, sir.

HOLMES: Thank you, Mrs Hudson.

HOLMES: Very good, sir.

MRS HUDSON goes out with the cups and saucers.

HOLMES: (*angrily*) Who are you, sir? And what do you want with me?

McFARLANE: (*shaking*) I'm sorry, Mr Holmes. I'm sorry. Please don't be angry. I feel so afraid, Mr Holmes.

HOLMES: Well, come in, sit down, and have a cigarette. Then tell us who you are and why you've come here.

McFARLANE sits at the table. WATSON gives him a cigarette and lights it. McFARLANE smokes the cigarette and stops shaking. Then he speaks.

McFARLANE: My name's John McFarlane.

HOLMES and WATSON look at each other questioningly.

HOLMES: (*to McFARLANE*) Yes... and?

McFARLANE: And I'm in terrible trouble. You must help me, Mr Holmes. The police want to arrest me and send me to prison. And I've done nothing, Mr Holmes, nothing.

HOLMES: Interesting. Very interesting. Don't you agree, Watson?

WATSON: Yes, Holmes, I do.

HOLMES: So, Mr McFarlane, please tell us: why do the police want to arrest you? What have you done?

McFARLANE: Nothing. I told you. I've done nothing. But they think that I murdered a man called Jonas Oldacre, a builder who lives – who lived – in south London, at Norwood.

HOLMES: I see. I'm very sorry to hear this, Mr McFarlane. Please tell us your story.

McFARLANE: Of course. It's here in today's newspaper.

STORYTELLER: And with that, John McFarlane opened Watson's newspaper and started reading the story to them.

Sample playscript based on
Dominoes Level Two:
Sherlock Holmes: The Norwood Mystery