

**AUDITION SIDES for**

**THE NOVEL ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN SCARLET**

**Actor 3:** Male (age 60-70); **Inspector G. Lestrade** of Scotland Yard (a little sallow rat-faced, dark eyed fellow); **John Ferrier** (an American traveler, heading west through Utah with his adopted daughter, Lucy); and other roles.

**LESTRADE**

Gentlemen! If you will!

(Eyes sparkling and rubbing his hands in a pompous and self-satisfied manner, LESTRADE is in an evident state of suppressed exaltation at having scored a point against his colleague.)

I have just made a discovery of the highest importance. One which would have been overlooked had I not made a careful examination of the walls.

(LESTRADE ushers the others to stand in the proper place in order to achieve the desired effect.)

Come here. Now, stand there!

(The lights change as LESTRADE strikes a match on his boot and triumphantly holds it up against the wall.)

Look at that! "R. A. C. H. E."

(with the air of an exhibiting showman)

What do you think of that? The murderer has written it with his —

(clinging to his feminine murder theory)

-- or her -- own blood. That disposes of the idea of suicide anyhow. And why was that corner chosen to write it on?

(before anyone can interrupt)

I will tell you. See that candle on the mantelpiece. It was lit at the time, making this corner the brightest instead of the darkest portion of the wall.

**JOHN**

(JOHN'S story is as suspenseful as any told at a campfire in the dark of night.)

What strength or courage can avail against an enemy armed with such mysterious powers? The hand which fastened that pin to my chest in my sleep might have just as easily struck me to the heart, and I would never have known who had slain me.

(moving about the room like a caged animal as he indicates where each successive missive appeared)

Day followed day. And as sure as morning came, I found that my unseen enemies had kept their register and had marked up in some conspicuous position how many days were still left to me out of the month of grace. Yet with all my vigilance I could not discover whence these daily warnings proceeded. A horror which was almost superstitious came upon me at the sight of them. I had but one hope in life now and that was for your arrival from Nevada.

(exhausted, sitting once more)

This morning had shown the figure "2" upon the outside wall of the house, and tomorrow will be the last of the allotted time.

(all manner of vague and terrible fancies filling his imagination)

What is to happen then? And my daughter -- what is to become of her after I am gone? Is there no escape from this invisible network which has drawn all round us?

(sinking his head upon the table, JOHN sobs at the thought of his own impotence. Music fades under dialogue.)

What are we to do?

**AUDITION SIDES for  
THE NOVEL ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN SCARLET**

**Actor 4:** Male (age 50-60); **Inspector Tobias Gregson** of Scotland Yard (normally callous and cool, he is robust and fair haired with fat, square hands); Mormon leader **Brigham Young**; and other roles.

**GREGSON**

(narrating as if directing a melodrama)

My dear Mr. Sherlock Holmes, there has been a bad business during the night at Number Three, Brixton Road. Our man on the beat saw a light there about two in the morning, and as the house was an empty one, suspected that something was amiss.

(DREBBER enters carrying a well brushed top hat.)

He found the door off its hinges, and in the front room --

(GREGSON indicates to DREBBER where he should lay on the floor. DREBBER nods, sets aside the top hat and lies down on the floor.)

-- Discovered the body of a well-dressed gentleman.

(GREGSON proceeds to investigate the room and the body.)

There had been no robbery, nor is there any evidence as to how the man met his death. There are marks of blood in the room, but there is no wound upon his person. Indeed, the whole affair is a puzzler. I have left everything "in status quo" until I hear from you.

---

**YOUNG**

(taking a seat and eyeing the nervous farmer keenly)

Brother Ferrier. The true believers have been good friends to you. We picked you up when you were starving in the desert. We shared our food with you, led you safe to the Chosen Valley, gave you a goodly share of land, and allowed you to wax rich under our protection. In return for all this we asked but one condition: that was, that you should embrace and conform to the true faith. It is of that daughter that I would speak to you. She has grown to be the flower of Utah and has found favor in the eyes of many who are high in the land. There are stories of her which I would fain disbelieve -- stories that she is sealed to some Gentile. This must be the gossip of idle tongues. What is the thirteenth rule in the code of the sainted Joseph Smith? "Let every maiden of the true faith marry one of the elect. For if she wed a Gentile, she commits a grievous sin." This being so, it is impossible that you, who profess the holy creed, should suffer your daughter to violate it.

(JOHN makes no answer, but nervously wipes the sweat from the back of his neck.)

Upon this one point your whole faith shall be tested. Stangerson has a son, and Drebber has a son, and either of them would gladly welcome your daughter to their house. Let her choose between them. They are young and rich, and of the true faith.

(JOHN nods. YOUNG rises from his seat.)

She shall have a month to choose.

(passing through the door)

At the end of that time she shall give her answer.

(YOUNG turns with flushed face and flashing eyes.)

I feel I should warn you brother. There are those who would bring down a swift retribution upon the recalcitrants who, having embraced the Mormon faith, wished afterwards to pervert or abandon it. You have thirty days. Be careful Brother Ferrier.

**AUDITION SIDES for**

**THE NOVEL ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN SCARLET**

**Actor 5:** Male (age 25-35); **Stamford** (a former dresser, now resident at St. Bart's Hospital); Constable **John Rance** of the London Police; and other roles.

**STAMFORD**

You mustn't blame me if you don't get on with him.

**WATSON**

Stamford, have you some reason for washing your hands of this matter.

**STAMFORD**

(answering with an uneasy laugh)

It is not easy to express the inexpressible. He's a little too scientific for my tastes -- it approaches cold-bloodedness. He appears to have a passion for definite and exact knowledge.

**WATSON**

Very right too.

**STAMFORD**

Yes, but when it comes to beating dead bodies in the dissecting-rooms with a stick to verify how far bruises may be produced after death.

(confidentially as he opens the door)

But here we are, and you must form your own impressions about him.

(STAMFORD opens the door and nonchalantly makes introductions.)

Doctor Watson, Mister Sherlock Holmes.

---

**RANCE**

(Sitting, RANCE'S narrative has all the fervor of a good ghost story.)

My time is from ten at night to six in the morning. At eleven there was a fight at the "White Hart;" but bar that all was quiet enough on the beat. At one o'clock it began to rain. Presently -- maybe about two or a little after -- I thought I would take a look round and see that all was right down Brixton Road. I was a strollin' down, thinkin' between ourselves how uncommon handy a four of gin hot would be --

(There is a quick flicker of light.)

-- When suddenly the glint of a light caught my eye in the window of number three.

(rising and crossing toward the light)

Now, I knew that that house was empty on account of them what lived in it died o' typhoid fever. I was knocked all in a heap, therefore, at seeing a light in the window, and I suspected as something was wrong. Some boozier, I figgered, had busted in the front door lookin' for a dry spot to sleep it off afore getting back to his misses.

(RANCE enters the room and indicates objects as he comes upon them.)

All was quiet inside, so I went into the room where the light was a-burnin'. There was a candle flickerin' on the mantelpiece -- a red wax one --

(Turning, RANCE kneels and points gravely to where DREBBER'S body lay.)

-- and by its light I saw --

**AUDITION SIDES for  
THE NOVEL ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN SCARLET**

**Actor 6:** Male (age 18-38); **Enoch Drebber** (a Mormon travelling in Europe and husband of Lucy Ferrier); and other roles.

**Actor 7:** Male (age 18-38); **Joseph Stangerson** (a Mormon travelling in Europe); and other roles.

**SCENE ONE**

---

**STANGERSON**

(offering his hand which JOHN ignores)

I'm Joseph Stangerson, son of Elder Stangerson and this here is Enoch, the son of Elder Drebber. Our fathers traveled with you in the desert when the Lord stretched out his hands and gathered you into the true fold --

**DREBBER**

(interrupting in a nasal voice and offering JOHN his flask which is also ignored)

-- As he will all the nations and his own good time he grindeth slowly but exceeding small.

**STANGERSON**

We have come at the advice of our fathers to solicit the hand of your daughter for whichever of us may seem good to you and her. As I have but four wives and Brother Drebber here has seven, it appears to me that my claim is the stronger one.

**DREBBER**

Nay, nay, Brother Stangerson. The question is not how many wives we have, but how many we can keep. My father has now given over his mills to me, thus I am the richer man.

**STANGERSON**

(warmly)

But my prospects are better. When the Lord removes my father, I shall have his tanning yard and his leather factory.

**DREBBER**

(smirking with confidence)

It will be for the maiden to decide. We will leave it all to her decision.

**SCENE TWO**

---

**DREBBER**

(inebriated)

When's the next train to Liverpool?

**STANGERSON**

(Checking his watch impatiently)

One's just gone and there won't be another until eleven o'clock.

**DREBBER**

(rather pleased)

That's all right. I've got a little business of my own to do. So, if you wait for me here I'll catch up with you before the next train.

(A loud rain whistle splits the air. STANGERSON pantomimes a complaint to DREBBER and is interrupted when DREBBER pantomimes erupting into a swearing outburst.)

**DREBBER**

(caught mid-sentence)

...And may I remind you, Stangerson that you are not "my keeper" and are therefore in no position to dictate to me.

**STANGERSON**

(giving up the argument and attempting to bargain instead)

Fine! Go about your "business." But if you miss the last train then rejoin me at Halliday's Private Hotel.

**DREBBER**

Oh, quit your worrying. I'll be back on the platform before eleven.

**AUDITION SIDES for  
THE NOVEL ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN SCARLET**

**Actor 8:** Female (age 40-50); **Mrs. Hudson** (Holmes' Landlady); **Madame Charpentier** (a boarding house proprietress); and other roles.

**HUDSON**

(Showing the rooms to her prospective tenants)

The rooms consist of a couple of comfortable bedrooms and a single large airy sitting-room, cheerfully furnished, and illuminated by a broad window overlooking the street.

---

**HUDSON**

(out of breath)

Mr. Holmes!

**HOLMES**

Thank you ever so much for escorting our guest, Mrs. Hudson.

**HUDSON**

(With a shrug and a huff MRS. HUDSON exits.)

Guest? That?

---

**HUDSON**

(with a knock before entering)

Very sorry to bother you gentlemen. It seems that a lady has arrived in a considerable state of excitement, who insists upon seeing you. She is waiting now in the sitting room.

---

**MADAME**

(throwing up her hands)

God forgive you Alice! You have murdered your own brother.

(Turning to GREGSON, the MADAME begins her tale in exaggerated gasps and pauses.)

Well sir, since my poor daughter has disclosed it, I have no alternative.

(The MADAME gestures to DREBBER and STANGERSON as they enter.)

Mr. Stangerson was a quiet reserved man, but Mr. Drebber, I am sorry to say, was coarse in his habits and brutish in his ways.

(With a wink and a nod, the MADAME sends ALICE toward the gentlemen to offer "assistance.")

Worst of all, he speedily assumed a free and familiar attitude towards my daughter, Alice, and spoke to her more than once in a way which, fortunately, she is too innocent to understand. Would to God that I had given him notice on the very day that he came.

(greedily accepting payment from STANGERSON with widening eyes as she counts the bills)

But it was a sore temptation. They were paying a pound a day each -- fourteen pounds a week, and this is the slack season. I acted for the best.

**AUDITION SIDES for  
THE NOVEL ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN SCARLET**

**Actor 9:** Female: (age 15-25); **Wiggins** (a street urchin and head of the Baker Street Irregulars); **Alice Charpentier** (Madame Charpentier's daughter); **Lucy Ferrier** (adopted daughter of John Ferrier, fiancée of Jefferson Hope and wife of Enoch Drebber); and other roles.

**WIGGINS**

(bursting into the room)  
Please, sir, I have the cab downstairs.

---

**ALICE**

(standing and breaking the silence in a calm clear voice)  
Mother!! We did see Mr. Drebber again.

---

**DREBBER**

(forcing himself drunkenly upon ALICE.)  
Alice! Oh, Alice my love! Let's have some fun, heh? What do you say? Let me take you away from all this. You are of age, and there is no law to stop you. I have money enough and to spare.

**ALICE**

(Screaming and attempting to get away)  
Mother!

---

(LUCY enters and dusts herself off as JEFFERSON HOPE follows her on.)

**HOPE**

(respectfully touching her shoulder)  
You're not hurt, I hope, miss.

**LUCY**

(turning and looking up at his dark, fierce face, and laughing saucily)  
Just a little shaken. Whoever would have thought my horse would have been so scared by a lot of cows?

(LUCY bends over to check the hem of her dress.)

**HOPE**

(earnestly, as he walks past her)  
Unfortunately, the horns of one of those steers, poked him in the flank, and got him all riled.

(turning to face her but she is still bent over)  
Thank god you kept your seat.

(LUCY looks up, catching him. Though embarrassed, he continues.)  
You are the daughter of John Ferrier?

**LUCY**

Why yes, but --

**HOPE**

(interrupting eagerly)  
I saw you ride down from his house. Ask him if he remembers the Hope family of St. Louis. If he's the same Ferrier, my father and he were pretty thick.

**LUCY**

(demurely, walking up to him)  
Hadn't you better come and ask yourself?

**HOPE**

(pleased, his dark eyes sparkle)  
I'd do so but I'm not in visiting condition.

**LUCY**

He has a good deal to thank you for, and so have I. You must come and see us. Now I must push along, or father won't trust me with his business any more. Good-bye!

**AUDITION SIDES for  
THE NOVEL ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN SCARLET**

**Actor 10:** Male (age 18-38); **Jefferson Hope** (an American frontiersman travelling in Europe and Lucy Ferrier's fiancée); and other roles.

(LUCY enters and dusts herself off as JEFFERSON HOPE follows her on.)

**HOPE**

(respectfully touching her shoulder)

You're not hurt, I hope, miss.

**LUCY**

(turning and looking up at his dark, fierce face, and laughing saucily)

Just a little shaken. Whoever would have thought my horse would have been so scared by a lot of cows?

(LUCY bends over to check the hem of her dress.)

**HOPE**

(earnestly, as he walks past her)

Unfortunately, the horns of one of those steers, poked him in the flank, and got him all riled.

(turning to face her but she is still bent over)

Thank god you kept your seat.

(LUCY looks up, catching him. Though embarrassed, he continues.)

You are the daughter of John Ferrier?

**LUCY**

Why yes, but --

**HOPE**

(interrupting eagerly)

I saw you ride down from his house. Ask him if he remembers the Hope family of St. Louis. If he's the same Ferrier, my father and he were pretty thick.

**LUCY**

(demurely, walking up to him)

Hadn't you better come and ask yourself?

**HOPE**

(pleased, his dark eyes sparkle)

I'd do so but I'm not in visiting condition.

**LUCY**

He has a good deal to thank you for, and so have I. You must come and see us. Now I must push along, or father won't trust me with his business any more. Good-bye!

---

**AUDITION SIDES for  
THE NOVEL ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN SCARLET**

**HOPE**

(dripping with friendliness)

We'll soon have a light.

(lighting a wax candle upon a nearby mantelpiece)

Now, Enoch Drebber

(turning to DREBBER once more and holding the light to his own face)

Who am I?

(There is thunder and lightning as DREBBER gazes at him with bleared, drunken eyes for a moment. Then a horror springs up in DREBBER'S eyes, and his features convulse as he recognizes HOPE. At the sight of DREBBER'S fear, HOPE laughs loud and long as his heart starts beating faster and louder.)

You dog! I have hunted you for twenty years and you have always escaped me. Now, at last your wanderings have come to an end, for either you or I shall never see tomorrow's sunrise.

**DREBBER**

Your nose! You're bleeding!

(HOPE laughs at the sight of his own blood as the beating of his heart grows to a crescendo only to be drowned out by the storm outside.)

You're mad!

**HOPE**

Perhaps I am! Punishment has been slow in coming, but it has overtaken you at last.

**DREBBER**

Mercy, please!

**HOPE**

(Pointing at LUCY'S GHOST whom DREBBER cannot see)

What mercy had you upon my poor darling Lucy, when you dragged her from her slaughtered father, and forced her into your shameless harem.

**DREBBER**

It was not I who killed her father

**HOPE**

(with a shriek)

But it was you who broke her innocent heart.

(Thunder and lightning. thrusting the box before him)

Let the high God judge between us. Choose and eat. There is death in one and life in the other. I shall take what you leave. Let us see if there is justice upon the earth, or if we are ruled by chance.