

## 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*