

BAKER STREET IRREGULAR REWRITES

These are OPTIONAL line changes, to be used either to clarify plot points, and/or if more time is needed for a set or costume change, and/or simply to bolster character development.

The placement of the line changes is based on the page numbers in the Dramatic Publishing version of the script.

Changes are in [BRACKETS/CAPS] and may replace existing lines.

lower half of page 15:

ELIZA

Two days ago our neighbors saw him bundled into the back of a carriage by [A STRANGE MAN] -- no one has seen him since.

top of page 18:

WIGGINS

Then we're off! I'll stay here and start goin' through [YOUR GRANDFATHER'S] diary and analyzin' the clues. You all start the search on Eliza's street and fan out until we find Richard Mayhew! The game's afoot!

middle of page 22:

MAYHEW

(To kids)

Please, you must take care of Eliza! I wasn't kidnapped. [PEABODY IS MY HELPER - I ASKED HIM TO BRING ME HERE, TO KEEP MY ENEMIES AWAY FROM ME AND MY GRANDDAUGHTER] - to hide [ME] until... I'll explain everything soon, but [GET BACK TO ELIZA, TELL HER I'M SAFE - PROTECT HER!]

POCKETS

I'm not [SURE YOU'RE SO SAFE HERE]. The keys are sticky. Slippery.

bottom of page 22-23:

CHEN

Can we get moving? I've got a bad feeling about this...

[MAYHEW

FINE, PEABODY AND I WILL FIND ANOTHER SAFE HOUSE FOR ME, BUT YOU GET BACK TO MY GRANDDAUGHTER AND KEEP HER SAFE!

POCKETS

[IT'S A DEAL. SHE'LL BE] at 221b Baker Street until you come for her. [BUT] make it fast.

TINY

Or it don't have to be that fast.

(Pockets looks at him)

She's nice company, isn't she?

[POCKETS (LEAVING)

AND GET OUT OF THIS HOUSE BEFORE WHOEVER HAS THE KEYS COMES BACK!]

CHEN

Come on!

He drags them out the door [AND THEY CLOSE IT BEHIND THEM, LEAVING PEABODY AND MAYHEW.

PEABODY

I FEAR THE GIRL WAS RIGHT. SOMEONE HAS COPIED MY KEYS.

MAYHEW

WHICH CAN ONLY MEAN MY OLD ENEMIES ARE COMING FOR ME AGAIN. WE CAN NEVER TRULY ESCAPE OUR PAST, CAN WE, PEABODY?

PEABODY

YOUR SECRETS ARE YOURS TO KEEP, SIR. I'LL KEEP THEM - AND YOU - SAFE.

(SOUND OF THE FRONT DOOR BEING UNLOCKED)

PEABODY
THE DOOR! DID THOSE CHILDREN LISTEN TO NOTHING OF WHAT YOU-

MAYHEW
IT CAN'T BE THE CHILDREN RETURNING - THEY HAVE NO KEYS - THAT HAS TO BE-

PEABODY
HIDE! QUICKLY! I'LL HOLD THEM OFF!

(PEABODY QUICKLY USHERS MAYHEW OFFSTAGE, LEAVING WITH HIM, AS TWO HULKING FIGURES UNLOCK AND ENTER THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR INTO THE EMPTY ROOM.)

HULKING FIGURE #1
[BUT WE SAW THEM KIDS RUNNIN' OUT O' HERE, O'REILLY! SHOULDN'T] we get them first?

HULKING FIGURE #2
[LISTEN, ARTHUR, THE BOSS IS RIGHT BEHIND US]. We gots a job to do. Let's do it. [FIND THAT MISERABLE OLD MAN], then we'll teach them little brats to keep their beaks outta other people's business.

(Sinister music as they ENTER THE ROOM, WALKING OFFSTAGE IN THE DIRECTION OF PEABODY AND MAYHEW)

Lights Shift and we're back at 221b Baker Street. Wiggins sits scanning maps of London as Ash BURSTS in

bottom of page 24:

Lights shift and we're back at PEABODY's door on the street - [A MAN IN REFINED CLOTHES AND BOWLER HAT STRIDES ON - INSPECTOR LESTRADE -- ACCOMPANIED BY A POLICEMAN IN FULL UNIFORM]

[INSPECTOR LESTRADE
I KNOW THAT, OFFICER! AND ALL OUR MEN SHOULD BE OUT LOOKING FOR THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER, BUT I NEED SOMEONE TO ASK AROUND FOR WITNESSES HERE AND KEEP THE PRESS AWAY UNTIL WE'VE SEARCHED FOR CLUES! THE LAST THING WE NEED IS SOME BUMBLING NOSY PARKERS BUMPING INTO US AT EVERY TURN-

(THE KIDS RUN IN, BUMPING INTO LESTRADE)

WIGGINS
 Sorry! We-
 Inspector Lestrade!

bottom of page 29:

“Yes, Eliza, you are not my granddaughter. You are the daughter of a rich businessman. We brought you back [UP NORTH] to York where we always held the children for ransom.

bottom of page 30:

ELIZA
(reading)

“But now my past has caught up with me. O’Reilly and Arthur are [OUT OF PRISON] and have found me and I fear for your life more than my own. I could not tell you my plans in case it led the villains to you, so I arranged my own kidnapping, in order to hide.”

middle of page 31:

CHEN
 I may have a clue.

WIGGINS
(Ignoring him)

My guess is that O’Reilly and Arthur and the third murderer, this “M”, [HAVE KIDNAPPED THE MAYOR’S DAUGHTER AND WILL TRY TO GET HER OUT OF LONDON]

page 33:

WIGGINS

(Grabs out a book, flipping through it)

Could be, but these three [KIDNAPPERS] came from up North and I believe that's where they'll go back to. It's home.

(Points to a page)

There! A train to York leaving from King's Cross at 12:34! [ARTHUR, O'REILLY, AND "M" KIDNAPPED THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER, KILLED ELIZA'S GRANDFATHER, AND ARE CATCHING THAT TRAIN UP NORTH TO HIDE OUT JUST LIKE THEY DID TEN YEARS AGO!]

ELIZA

And now that my grandfather's gone, they think nothing can stop them.

bottom of page 33/top of page 34:

WIGGINS

Then he'll also have to answer to Sherlock's friends. [LET'S GO!]

(And they charge out.

Lights Shift as Inspector Lestrade and Dr. Watson walk into a separate area.

[WATSON

(SHOWING NEWSPAPER)

IT'S NOT ME, INSPECTOR, IT'S THE NEWSPAPERS! QUESTIONING WHETHER YOU'LL FIND THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER BEFORE CHRISTMAS- I KNOW I CERTAINLY DON'T HAVE SHERLOCK'S SKILLS, BUT IT SEEMS IT'S ALL HANDS ON DECK, AND PERHAPS YOU NEED-

INSPECTOR LESTRADE

PERHAPS I NEED A MOMENT OF PEACE TO DO SOME DEDUCING OF MY OWN! YOU, THE PAPERS, THE PUBLIC - ALWAYS LOOKING DOWN ON OUR POLICING - WELL, NOT TODAY, MR. WATSON! FROM HERE ON I WILL NOT TOLERATE ANYONE EVER AGAIN MOCKING THE NAME "INSPECTOR LESTRADE"!]

(Ash charges up to them)

ASH

Inspector Lestrudel!

page 36:

ELIZA

It's the mayor's daughter! You're safe now!

CHEN

But where are the other two kidnappers -[O'REILLY AND "M"?]

bottom of page 39:

POCKETS

But we only caught Arthur, we never saw the other [KIDNAPPER] - O'Reilly -- where is he?

middle of page 43:

ELIZA

O'Reilly? The [ONE WHO HELPED KIDNAP THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER]??

CHEN

[BUT HE GOT AWAY.] Why would he come here??

INSPECTOR LESTRADE

As I was returning to the station I received word that O'Reilly was coming [TO THIS APARTMENT] — apparently he was in fear for his life. [O'REILLY SAID HE HAD A BOOK OF CRIMES THAT HE STOLE FROM WIGGINS - A BOOK THAT WOULD PROVE WIGGINS WAS THE MOST EVIL CRIMINAL OF ALL TIME - AND NOW WIGGINS WAS GOING TO KILL HIM TO GET IT BACK].

WIGGINS

Yes, but he must have meant *Morris* Wiggins- [MY FATHER- NOT ME]!

upper half of page 44:

INSPECTOR LESTRADE

We'll soon find out what your connection was.

WIGGINS

[NO! MY FATHER MUST HAVE FOLLOWED O'REILLY HERE, KILLED HIM, AND TOOK THE BOOK LISTING ALL HIS CRIMES!]

[LESTRADE

(TO POLICE)

TAKE HIM AWAY!]

WIGGINS

(TO OTHERS AS HE'S PULLED OUT)

Find [THAT] book of crimes! You find it, you find my father!

(The police lead him out.)

bottom of page 44

TINY

We need to get to the basement where Mr. Holmes kep' all his old case files. [GO!]

middle of page 45

CHEN

So what are we looking for?

TINY

(Looking through boxes of paper)

[CUT LINES AS WRITTEN, CHANGE TO: [WE NEED TO FIND MORRIS WIGGINS TO PROVE OUR WIGGINS IS INNOCENT, RIGHT?]

[CHEN AND ELIZA
RIGHT!]

[TINY

SO WE NEED ALL THE INFORMATION WE CAN GET ON MORRIS WIGGINS. AND DOWN HERE IN THE BASEMENT IS WHERE SHERLOCK KEPT ALL HIS OLD FILES, INCLUDING THE ONES FROM 1885 WHEN HE ARRESTED MORRIS. THOSE FILES MIGHT GIVE US A CLUE OF WHY MORRIS AIN'T IN PRISON, AND WHERE HIM AND HIS BOOK OF CRIMES ARE HIDING. SO GET LOOKING!]

CHEN

Here's some 1885 stuff-

lower half of page 46:

CHEN

Where'd you get that?

ELIZA

I snuck it out of the office upstairs-

[TINY

BRILLIANT!]

ELIZA

[THANK YOU. LOOK -] I just found the [SAME] date in 1885- [THE RATHBONE CASE! AND] according to my grandfather, he did help capture Morris Wiggins, but-

bottom of page 47:

(Eliza looks at her grandfather... he sadly looks back at her... and lets Morris go. Mayhew keeps watching Eliza)

ELIZA

He must have found someone to take Morris Wiggins' place in prison. [THAT'S WHY EVERYONE THINKS MORRIS IS STILL IN JAIL, WHILE HE'S OUT HERE KIDNAPPING AND MURDERING MORE PEOPLE.

(STEPS TOWARD MAYHEW)

INCLUDING MY GRANDFATHER.]

(Mayhew nods and steps back into the blackness.)

CHEN

But, mates, don't you get it? [THE BOOK OF CRIMES - Morris Wiggins HAS IT, BUT IT'S NOT HIS!] He was just keeping it... for Moriarty!

middle of page 51:

POCKETS

Morris Wiggins may be evil but he's not stupid. He's got [THAT BOOK] well-hidden. Under a floor board, behind a wall -- it could be anyplace. We need time-

bottom of page 51:

POCKETS

(Catching up last)

I unlocked a window [BY THE BACK DOOR] - we can [CLIMB] back in when we need to.

TINY

But how's that gonna help us? It could take days to find the book and [OUR] Wiggins will be hung by then!

middle of page 52:

WIGGINS

(Opens envelope and quickly READS AS HE SPEAKS)

Girlfriend? I don't have any... oh. [IT'S FROM ELIZA.]

page 57:

POCKETS

You must have done just what we asked you to in the note, Wiggins. You got Morris to come straight from seeing you back to his hide-out and lead us right to the [BOOK'S] hiding place.

top of page 61:

FATHER

Here- here, come inside, let me translate-

[MOTHER

AND WE'LL ALL HAVE SOME TEA AND BISCUITS WITH MR. WIGGINS AND
JOANNA-

POCKETS

POCKETS!]

*(They all step through the door as Lights Shift and Eliza, Ash, Tiny and Chen walk onto
the other side of the stage, on a street)*
