

SHERLOCK. Why did you do that?

WATSON. Because I wish to discuss your brother. I just met him on the street.

SHERLOCK. Oh? Did he recite your entire biography back to you?

WATSON. Yes. His intimate knowledge of my personal history was as encyclopedic as it was unsettling. Who in the world is this person?

SHERLOCK. He claims to be merely a civil servant, but I assure you that very little occurs on a national scale without his knowledge, if not his direct influence.

WATSON. You understand what he wants from me? He asked me to spy on you.

SHERLOCK. Does this mean you're taking the room then?

WATSON. That's not the point, Sherlock! Brothers do not normally bribe people to spy on their sisters for them.

SHERLOCK. No, but when the fate of an empire rests on one's shoulders, as is often the case for Mycroft, one can never be too careful.

WATSON. So you are willing to accept this arrangement?

SHERLOCK. I am. Are you?

WATSON. Yes.

SHERLOCK. It's settled then. The only question now is where to pick up the thread of our investigation, since Inspector Lestrade turned out to be disappointingly commonplace in his willingness to accept our assistance.

WATSON. He'll come around. Until then, I believe I have an idea.

SHERLOCK. You really wish to participate?

WATSON. No. This entire enterprise seems foolish at best, and dangerous at worst. But on one point I agree with you: If we do not help, who will?