

# SHERLOCK HOLMES' HAT

By Jon Jory

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# SHERLOCK HOLMES' HAT

*A one act play freely adapted from Arthur Conan Doyle's classic stories*

**By Jon Jory**

**SYNOPSIS:** Curious things start to happen after June pulls a mysterious hat from the mud in London. It seems that this dirty deerstalker gives June the same uncanny abilities of the great Sherlock Holmes. Soon after Violet arrives with a wild story asking for help. With her new friend Doc by her side, June may be the only person who can solve this case.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(4-6 females, 3 males, 2 extras)*

JUNE (f)..... a girl of sixteen. *(165 lines)*  
 CANDY (f) ..... June's sister. *(15 lines)*  
 MOM (f) ..... *(31 lines)*  
 DOC WATSON (m) ..... a nerd. *(121 lines)*  
 VIOLET SMITH (f)..... twenty. *(27 lines)*  
 MR. WOOD (m) ..... *(10 lines)*  
 BOB CARR (m)..... *(9 lines)*  
 MRS. WILLIAMSON (f) ..... a pastor. *(2 lines)*  
 DETECTIVE SUMMERS (f)..... *(3 lines)*

## EXTRAS:

TWO COPS (m/f)..... *(Non-speaking)*

**DURATION:** 30 minutes

**TIME:** Present.

**OPTIONAL DOUBLING:** CANDY and MOM can double as MRS. WILLIAMSON and DETECTIVE SUMERS.

**STAGING NOTE:** A bare stage. Furniture brought on and off during very quick blackouts.

**AT RISE:** *A girl of sixteen, JUNE, sits on a sofa. She has just returned from London with her choir group. Her sister, CANDY, is going to a cheerleading camp. Her mother is frazzled. Chaos ensues.*

**CANDY:** *(Offstage.)* Mom!

**MOM:** *(Kissing JUNE on the cheek.)* Welcome home, dear.

**CANDY:** *(Offstage.)* Mom!!

**MOM:** *(Yelling back.)* What is it, Candy?

**CANDY:** *(Appears in cheerleader gear.)* Where are my pompoms?

**MOM:** In the hall closet, dear.

**CANDY:** They're not in the hall closet. Are you sitting on my pompoms, June?

**JUNE:** Hi, I'm back from London.

**CANDY:** *(Panicked.)* How can I win a cheerleading contest if I don't have pompoms?

**JUNE:** Hi, I'm back from London.

**MOM:** I think I saw Brutus carrying a pompom.

**CANDY:** The dog has my pompoms?!

**JUNE:** Hi, I'm back from London.

**CANDY:** *(To JUNE.)* Do you understand how unbelievably tragic this is?

**JUNE:** I'm back from London.

**CANDY:** The dog has eaten my pompoms!

**JUNE:** London?

**CANDY:** No one cares, June. You are the boring daughter and I'm the interesting daughter. Nothing, and I mean nothing in capital letters ever happens to you. I, on the other hand, am the state flute champion, the state robotics champion and if I have my pompoms, I will be the state cheerleading champion.

**MOM:** There are spares in the car.

**CANDY:** What??

**JUNE:** Well, I am boring but...

**CANDY:** *(Flipping out.)* Why didn't anybody tell me?!

**JUNE:** I am back from London.

**CANDY:** You are both going to drive me insane! *(Exits.)*

**MOM:** Isn't your sister sweet?

**JUNE:** No.

**MOM:** I think so too. Now what were we talking about?

**JUNE:** I just got back from London.

**MOM:** Of course you did. Our little high school choir goes to London. (*Sits with JUNE.*) Didn't you say they mentioned it in the *London Times*?

**JUNE:** No.

**MOM:** But you sang in the Royal Albert Hall which is very famous?

**JUNE:** No mother, we sang on some steps near the stock exchange.

**MOM:** Well, that is just peachy delicious. Now June, I washed everything in your suitcase and stacked it on your bed. Try to put it away in less than a month.

**JUNE:** I'll put it on my list.

**MOM:** There was a strange hat. Well, I think it's a hat, it's so muddy-yucky and torn and stained it's almost impossible to tell. Where did you get it and why do we have it?

**JUNE:** Well, there was this construction site across the street from our little hotel and I just went over and got... well, I think he was the foreman or whatever... to, you know, take me around.

**MOM:** You didn't? Really, June, they'll think you were a pushy American.

**JUNE:** I am a pushy American. Oh, it was so cool! They had these giant deep foundation machines they call "The Green Monster" and I got to work one.

**MOM:** What?!

**JUNE:** He showed me how and he let me dig.

**MOM:** What?! Why did he do that?

**JUNE:** Because I'm very persuasive and fantastically charming. So then I got out in the super-duper sticky mud and there was the hat and I brought it home. You gave me fifty dollars for mementos and the hat was absolutely free.

**MOM:** That horrible hat should pay you. Oh, the washing machine's stopped.

*MOM hurries out. JUNE gets up and walks distractedly about.*

**JUNE:** Well, I may be boring, but I am also bored. Bored, bored, bored. B-O-R-E-D, bored. Also I hid Candy's pompoms but we won't go into that. I wish I was back in England, at least they have accents. Summer's almost over and now I have nothing to do. My life ended in London. Mother wants me to take a knitting class. Knitting makes me want to suck barbed wire like spaghetti.

**MOM:** (*Appears.*) Here it is, the poor dead thing.

**JUNE:** Weird.

**MOM:** Actually I think it's what they call a deerstalker.

**JUNE:** (*Putting it on.*) I'll never take it off. I'll wear it to bed.

**MOM:** It's a little ridiculous, dear. I suggest you only wear it in bed.

**JUNE:** You've been over to Aunt Jane's.

**MOM:** You were asleep, how do you know?

**JUNE:** Well, there's some yeast powder on your left shoe and she's the only one we know who uses a bio-fertilizer, plus you have a little tear on your left shoulder and there's that nail that sticks out when you go in her garage. Then you must have stopped at the mall because they are re-lining their parking lot and there are drops of paint on your right shoe and you probably got something at the Health Shake store because your mustache is a little green...

**MOM:** My mustache?

**JUNE:** And when you left your dress got caught in the car door because there's a diagonal crease.

**MOM:** How on earth do you know all that?

**JUNE:** I have no idea, it just came to me. And you're obviously worried about Aunt Jane because you always clean your glasses when you're worried, so she's probably run up her credit card debt again.

**MOM:** Something earth shaking must have happened in England because usually you're too sleepwalky to notice anything.

*JUNE'S cellphone rings, she answers. MOM exits.*

**JUNE:** Hello? I didn't just call you because I didn't call anyone. Who are you? Doc Watson? I don't know anyone called Doc. I said it was an emergency and you should come right over? What? Where are you? What!? You're standing on my lawn? (*Looks out an imaginary window toward the audience.*) You are. You're standing on my lawn and you're wearing a suit. Nobody, and I mean nobody your age wears a suit. Wait a minute, I'll let you in.

*JUNE exits. MOM enters.*

**MOM:** June, how did you know Aunt Jane had run up fifteen thousand dollars on her credit card? (*JUNE isn't there, so she exits calling.*) Junie?

*JUNE enters with DOC WATSON who is around her age wearing a suit and a Star Wars tie. He looks remarkably nerdy.*

**JUNE:** I swear on a stack of Bibles I didn't call you.

**DOC:** You left your address. OMG!

**JUNE:** What?

**DOC:** You're wearing a deerstalker! I can't believe you are wearing a deerstalker!

**JUNE:** Why?

**DOC:** What can you tell about me from looking at me?

**JUNE:** What?

**DOC:** Take a shot.

**JUNE:** Ummm, King of the Nerds.

**DOC:** What else?

**JUNE:** You're a stamp collector. You sleep in the attic. Your father was a famous football player and you keep a diary.

**DOC:** Explain.

**JUNE:** You have a Kenyan stamp stuck to your sleeve. You have dust on your butt from the attic. You're wearing a Superbowl ring and your right hand is wildly ink-stained so you probably keep a diary.

**DOC:** Right, right, right and right. Don't you get it?

**JUNE:** Get what?

**DOC:** Who was famous for wearing a deerstalker?

**JUNE:** I have no idea.

**DOC:** Sherlock Holmes. Who was his partner?

**JUNE:** Doctor Watson.

**DOC:** I'm Alexander Watson, but everybody calls me Doc because I can cure animals.

**JUNE:** Doc Watson.

**DOC:** Yes. You're so observant you immediately knew all about me.

**JUNE:** I'm usually completely unobservant. My dad ran out on us and I didn't notice for two weeks.

**DOC:** When did you get the hat?

**JUNE:** About a week ago, but I didn't wear it until today.

**DOC:** You didn't call me?

**JUNE:** I didn't call anyone.

**DOC:** Well you left a message telling me to come right over and gave your address.

**JUNE:** I didn't.

**DOC:** You said it was an emergency. You had an English accent.

**JUNE:** Big time weird.

**DOC:** It's the hat.

**JUNE:** The hat?

**DOC:** The hat!

*JUNE whips the hat off and looks at it.*

**DOC:** Where did you get it?

**JUNE:** I was in London and pulled it out of the mud in a construction site about twenty feet down.

**DOC:** That is Sherlock Holmes' hat.

**JUNE:** Your brain is full of marbles.

**DOC:** You found Sherlock Holmes' hat.

**JUNE:** That's impossible.

**DOC:** No!

**JUNE:** Yes!

**DOC:** *(Points at himself.)* Doc Watson. *(Points at her.)* Sherlock Holmes.

**JUNE:** That is way, way too freaky.

**DOC:** Oh yeah. The universe wants us together.

**JUNE:** Why?

**DOC:** To continue his work?

**JUNE:** We're kids.

**DOC:** But this is so crazy, maybe only kids would believe it.

**MOM:** (*Enters.*) Junie, I have to... (*Sees DOC.*) Oh. Hello.

*DOC gives kind of a limp wave.*

**MOM:** Well who's this?

**JUNE:** Just a friend he...

**DOC:** She's teaching me to play chess.

**MOM:** (*To JUNE.*) But you don't play chess, dear.

**JUNE:** I do though, I...

**DOC and JUNE:** Learned in London.

**MOM:** How nice. (*To DOC.*) And you have a name?

**DOC:** Alexander.

**MOM:** Well, I'm June's mom. How did you two meet?

**JUNE:** Oh, it was...

**DOC:** A coincidence...

**JUNE:** Sort of.

**MOM:** Well, how lucky for us, June, I'm off to work, I'll be home at six.  
Pizza night, right?

**JUNE:** Right.

**MOM:** You're welcome to stay, Alexander.

**DOC:** Can't. But thanks.

**MOM:** Must rush. We have a chess set in the hall closet, I think. (*Hugs JUNE.*) Welcome home, sweetie. (*Exits.*)

**DOC:** She's nice.

**JUNE:** Little do you know. So, if I've got this right, when I have the hat  
on I—

**DOC:** Have Sherlock's deductive talent. His mind, no less.

**JUNE:** Well, what am I supposed to do with it?

**DOC:** Umm, the universe got us here, maybe the universe will tell us.

*Knock at the door.*

**DOC:** Oh-oh.

**JUNE:** Who's that?

**DOC:** The universe paying a call.

**JUNE:** I'm too young to deal with the universe.

**DOC:** I have this feeling the hat will take care of it. (*Opens the door.*)  
Come in.

**VIOLET:** May I?

**DOC:** Absolutely, we can't wait to see what happens next.

*VIOLET SMITH in full cycling gear enters.*

**VIOLET:** Are you?

**DOC:** She is.

**VIOLET:** A private detective?

**JUNE:** Well I...

**DOC:** She is world renowned.

**JUNE:** I am?

**DOC:** From sea to shining sea.

**VIOLET:** It was so odd. I was thinking I needed a private detective and the next morning the mailman left me an advertisement with this address on it.

**JUNE:** What?! An advertisement?

**DOC:** We advertise widely.

**VIOLET:** And this is the Universe Detective Agency?

**DOC:** (*To JUNE.*) Told ya. (*To VIOLET.*) Yes, we handle the entire universe.

**VIOLET:** You're very young.

**DOC:** So are you. This is June Sherlock.

**JUNE:** What?

**DOC:** She is our A1 detective. She never fails.

**JUNE:** My last name is...

**DOC:** Sherlock is her middle name. Give her a little taste, June.

**JUNE:** Well, I see by your complexion you live in the country. Because of the slight callouses on your right hand, I assume you play the violin. A music teacher, I think.

**VIOLET:** Amazing.

**JUNE:** Because of the mud on your left shoe, I see you live in Clifford.

**VIOLET:** I do.

**JUNE:** The mud in Clifford is quite grainy and with that peculiar red tinge. (*Whispers to DOC.*) How did I know that?

*DOC points to JUNE'S hat.*

**JUNE:** Okay, this is scary.

**VIOLET:** I'm scary?

**JUNE:** No, no, not you.

**DOC:** Not you.

**JUNE:** Absolutely not you. How may we be of help?

**VIOLET:** Well... mind if I eat an energy bar?

*DOC and JUNE shake their heads.*

**VIOLET:** My father is dead. He was the conductor of a community orchestra. My only uncle lives in South Africa. My mother and I were very poor and one day we were told there was an ad in the paper trying to find us. We went to the lawyer whose name was in the ad. He arranged a meeting with two men from South Africa, Mr. Carr and Mr. Wood who said our uncle was a good friend who had recently passed away but asked them to see if my mother and I needed any help. Apparently we were left a significant sum. It's so odd that Uncle Ralph who seemed not to care at all when he was alive, cared so much when he was dead.

**JUNE and DOC:** Big time weird.

**VIOLET:** That was four months ago. Mr. Wood and Mr. Carr have settled in the USA. Wood is creepy and keeps hitting on me. I mean Jimmy would...

**DOC:** The boyfriend.

**VIOLET:** How did you know?

**DOC:** Forty-three percent of all boyfriends are named Jimmy.

**VIOLET:** (*Laughs.*) Boyfriend, yes. An electrical engineer. We're to be married at Thanksgiving. Meanwhile, Mr. Wood was scary but Mr. Carr was both nice and polite. He knew I would have very little money until the will was settled and even suggested paying me to teach violin to his ten year old niece who lived with him. It was an excellent salary and so I lived with them during the week and my mother on weekends. He was a widower.

**JUNE:** And then the horrible Mr. Wood showed up.

**VIOLET:** How did you know?

**JUNE:** (*Adjusting the hat.*) It just came to me.

**VIOLET:** He caught me in the hall, held me by the arm and said if I married him I should have diamonds and cars... whatever. He pinned me to the wall and forcibly kissed me. Mr. Carr, hearing my protests, rushed in and Wood knocked him down and ran out. Luckily, I haven't seen him since.

**JUNE:** That is so yucky!

**VIOLET:** (*Pacing.*) Awful. Quite horrible, ooooo. But here's why I came today. Every Friday after work, I ride my bike from Mr. Carr's house to the bus station. The road is quite dark and empty. Two weeks ago, I looked back and a man with a dark beard, also on a bike seemed to be following me. Then when I came back on Monday, I saw the same man on the same bike on the same road. Since then it has happened again. Today as well. I had had enough! I slowed down, he slowed down, I stopped, he stopped. There was a sharp turn. I pedaled fast and then pulled up but he never came. I rode back to see, but he was gone.

**DOC:** Creepy. Extremely creepy!

**JUNE:** How long between your turning the corner and his being gone?

**VIOLET:** Two minutes. And there were no side roads. I knew then I needed help.

**JUNE:** Your boyfriend?

**VIOLET:** I would know him on sight.

**JUNE:** Any other admirers?

**VIOLET:** Well, you can see I'm cute.

**DOC:** Very cute.

**JUNE:** Could it be Mr. Wood?

**VIOLET:** No, I would smell him a hundred yards away you know...

**DOC and JUNE:** What?

**VIOLET:** Sometimes I think Mr. Carr is attracted. He's very polite, but women know.

**JUNE:** No kidding. They sweat.

**DOC:** What does he do for a living?

**VIOLET:** Wealthy, I think. I heard him on his phone once discussing gold shares. (*Looks at her watch.*) I have to go, I'm meeting Jimmy.

**DOC:** We'll take the case.

**JUNE:** We will?

**DOC:** You, me, and the hat.

**JUNE:** We'll check into Mr. Wood and Mr. Carr. Let me know if there are... developments.

**VIOLET:** I will. Goodbye.

**DOC:** Goodbye.

**JUNE:** Goodbye.

**VIOLET, DOC, and JUNE:** Goodbye!

*VIOLET exits.*

**DOC:** *(Delighted, rubbing his hands.)* We are in business!

**JUNE:** That's what I'm afraid of.

**DOC:** Love it. Love it to pieces!

**JUNE:** Okay. You go down to Clifford where all this is happening.

**DOC:** Me?

**JUNE:** And ditch the suit, you look like an undertaker.

**DOC:** Nice.

**JUNE:** I have to help mom with a yard sale.

**DOC:** Don't sell the hat.

**JUNE:** Bring back info.

**DOC:** What info?

**JUNE:** Detective info. How do I know what info? Find out the connection between Mr. Carr and Mr. Wood.

**DOC:** *(Jotting it down on a pad.)* Carr and Wood...

**JUNE:** Go.

**DOC:** When?

**JUNE:** Tomorrow. Then come back and report.

**DOC:** *(Writing.)* ...come back and report. *(Looks up.)* I'll tell mother I went to a coding workshop.

**JUNE:** Then come right back.

**DOC:** *(Writing.)* ...right back. *(Salutes.)* If I never return, write a book about me.

*A blackout. Right back up. JUNE, seated, reading a graphic novel. DOC enters.*

**DOC:** I came right back. Where's the hat?

**JUNE:** I don't wear it to bed.

**DOC:** Put it back on!

**JUNE:** (*She does.*) Fine.

**DOC:** (*Saluting.*) Doctor Watson reporting. It was thrilling! I hid behind some bushes midway on the road she bikes to the bus station. (*He acts it out.*) I peered out between two clumps of flowers. I looked to the left, I looked to the right. A cyclist was riding down the opposite direction from where I had come. I scratched my nose.

**JUNE:** Oh good.

**DOC:** He got off the bike and went between two hedges. I scratched my nose again. Suddenly! A second cyclist appeared coming from the station. She passed. He followed.

**JUNE:** You scratched your nose again.

**DOC:** How did you know?

**JUNE:** It just came to me.

**DOC:** There they were. The girl. The MAN: My nose. She looked back and slowed. He slowed. She stopped. He stopped. She turned and dashed straight at him. He dashed away.

**JUNE:** They both dashed.

**DOC:** Yes. After a while she came back up the road. He came behind her. They went around a curve. The end.

**JUNE:** The end?

**DOC:** So I thought. Then he came back and went between the hedges. I scratched my nose.

**JUNE:** Stop with the nose!

**DOC:** I followed him. There was an old gray house. He went in.

**JUNE:** And?

**DOC:** That's all. But I found a real estate agent. The house is called Charlington Hall. She said I could have rented it for the summer but she had just rented it to a Mrs. Williamson, apparently a very cranky old woman. The end. Am I terrific or am I terrific?

**JUNE:** You suck.

**DOC:** What??

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