

CHAPTER 1

'Help me'

'Today is a good day,' said Detective Inspector Lestrade.

'Not for the Waters family,' smiled the policewoman next to him.

The Waters family were famous for their crimes in London. They took thousands of pounds from banks and the police could never stop them. They always left before the police arrived.

But today was different. After months of planning, Lestrade was ready for them. The Waters family were inside a bank, and there were police all around it.

'Nothing can go wrong this time,' said the policewoman. 'We've put ten men on top of the building, and another two on Mafeking Road. There are ...'

'Sorry,' said Lestrade. He had a new text message. 'Let me just read this.'



The message said: *HELP. BAKER STREET. NOW.*

Lestrade only knew one person in Baker Street: Sherlock Holmes. Sherlock wasn't a policeman, but he solved a lot of difficult cases for the police.

There was another text message: *HELP ME. PLEASE.*

This was important. Sherlock was in trouble. 'I'm sorry,' Lestrade said to the policewoman. 'I have to go. You can take the Waters family to the police station for me.'

'But if you go now, no one is going to know about your hard work. This is *your* case, Detective Inspector. You can't just leave.'

But Lestrade wasn't there. He was already on his way to Sherlock. 'I need men, lots of men, at Baker Street!' he shouted into his mobile.

A few minutes later, Lestrade ran into Sherlock's flat.

'Sherlock! What's wrong?'

Sherlock was in front of his computer.

'This is difficult,' he said slowly. 'It's the most difficult thing that I've ever done.'

'What is?' asked Lestrade as ten police cars arrived in the street.

'I'm the best man* at John's wedding tomorrow, and I have to make a speech. Do you know any funny stories about him?'

* At a man's wedding, his best friend is his best man. The best man's speech is an important part of a wedding day.