

## Priya/Olive/Josephine/Sherlock/Watson

*JOSEPHINE and OLIVE enter, followed by SHERLOCK and WATSON.)*

PRIYA. Mrs. Butler!

*(JOSEPHINE rushes to PRIYA and hugs her. OLIVE hangs back.)*

**START** JOSEPHINE. Priya! We've been so worried. Are you all right?

PRIYA. I'm fine. Olive, I'm so glad you're here.

OLIVE. It's good to see you, Priya.

PRIYA *(seeing SHERLOCK and WATSON)*. Is one of you Miss Holmes?

SHERLOCK. I am.

PRIYA. I understand I have you to thank.

SHERLOCK. Not yet, I'm afraid. We can't hide you here forever.

PRIYA. I'm so sorry, Mrs. Butler. I didn't want any of this to come back on you.

JOSEPHINE. Nothing of the kind has happened. We just want to make sure you're safe.

WATSON. You were right to take off when you did. There's a strong chance you'd be arrested by now otherwise.

PRIYA. You must be Dr. Watson, then?

WATSON. Yes. It's wonderful to finally meet you, Miss Singh.

PRIYA. Mrs. Wiggins has been filling me in on what you do for people. It's extraordinary.

SHERLOCK. Well, we don't offer our services to just anyone. But yours is a particularly interesting situation, one that will require some effort in order to extract you from it. If you are feeling up to it, I would like to hear your version of events. And please, leave no detail out, no matter how trivial you might think it.

*SHERLOCK*

*OLIVE hangs*

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PRIYA. Yes, of course. Where should I begin?

SHERLOCK. Why did you go to see Daniel Burke?

PRIYA. He sent me a note. I still have it, if you need to see it. He told me he was in town, and that he'd spotted me at one of our recent rallies. I hadn't heard from him in years, since before I'd left for London. But he invited me to come see him. For old times' sake, he said.

SHERLOCK. You were raised in his father's household, I understand. Your parents were in service to Sir Edmund Burke?

PRIYA. If you could call it that. My father was an architect in Delhi when the Rebellion broke out. He was a peaceful man and had no part in the fighting. But when the East India Company retook the city, they slaughtered thousands of civilians. When the British finally took control, he thought his skills might be put to use to help rebuild Delhi, but such roles were not made available to Indians. He and my mother were forced to become servants instead. That is how they became a part of the Burke household.

SHERLOCK. Given such a history, why choose to follow Sir Edmund back to England?

PRIYA. The home they knew was gone. They were starting a family. There was no work for them if they stayed, and they didn't have the means to go anywhere else. My father was a brilliant, educated man, but it meant nothing under crown rule. So my parents came to England, hoping to find a better life for me. And Sir Edmund Burke put them on display like they were part of a menagerie.

SHERLOCK. And yet Daniel Burke invited you to see him "for old times' sake"? **STOP**

PRIYA. Daniel and I were children together, at the same time, in the same house. We were playmates. But I think we had