

M

You don't seem very afraid.

JOHN

You don't seem very frightening.

M

Ah, yes, the bravery of the soldier. Bravery is by far the kindest word for stupidity, don't you think? What is your connection with Sherlock Holmes?

JOHN

I don't have one. I barely know him. I met him yesterday.

M

And since yesterday you've moved in with him, and now you're solving crimes together. Might we expect a happy announcement by the end of the week?

JOHN

Who are you?

M

An interested party.

JOHN

Interested in Sherlock? Why? I'm guessing you're not friends.

M

You've met him. How many friends do you imagine he has? I'm the closest thing Sherlock Holmes is capable of having to a friend.

JOHN

And what's that?

M

An enemy.

JOHN

An enemy?

M

In his mind, certainly. If you asked him he'd probably say his arch enemy. He does love to be dramatic.

John's phone beeps; he glances at it and see a text message from Sherlock: *"BAKER STREET. COME AT ONCE IF CONVENIENT. SH."*

M

I hope I'm not distracting you.

JOHN

Not distracting me at all, no.

M

Do you plan to continue your association with Sherlock Holmes?

JOHN

Far as I remember, and I could be wrong, but I think that's none of your business.

M

It could be.

JOHN

It really couldn't.

M

If you do move in to Baker Street, I would be happy to pay you a meaningful sum of money, on a regular basis, to ... ease your way.

JOHN

Why?

M

Because you're not a rich man.

JOHN

In exchange for what?

M

Information. Nothing indiscreet,  
nothing you'd feel uncomfortable with.  
Just ... tell me what he's up to.

JOHN

Why?

M

I worry about him. Constantly.

JOHN

That's nice of you.

M

But I would prefer, for various  
reasons, that my concern went ...  
unmentioned. We have what you might  
call, a difficult relationship.

John's phone beeps; new text: *"IF INCONVENIENT COME ANYWAY"*

JOHN

No.

M

I haven't mentioned a figure.

JOHN

Don't bother.

M

You're very loyal, very quickly.

JOHN

No I'm not. I'm just not interested.