

MINNIE CALLBACK

HOLMES

Hello there, Miss Williams.

MINNIE

Hello...

HOLMES

Is everything in order?

MINNIE

Yes. We have three new guests. The books have been done and filed. A detective came by looking for your fiance.

HOLMES

A detective. My fiance?

MINNIE

Yes.

HOLMES

Oh dear.

MINNIE

You're a wonderful man. Too good for me. I should have known this wasn't real.

HOLMES

Now Minnie. Let me explain.

MINNIE

It's fine. Really. I should never have come. My sister always thought I was a fool. She'll be glad for the validation.

HOLMES

I was going to tell you everything when the time was right. You must understand me... I have every intention of marrying you. The whole affair with Julia was rather messy. Yes, I was engaged- but when I got your sweet letters, I had a sudden change of heart and ended my engagement. She was so heartbroken, she immediately left and nobody has heard from her since. I'm sure her mother is worried, but you have no reason to be concerned. I'm sorry if I've upset you, dearest.

MINNIE

...What? Forgive me, I didn't hear anything after you said the part about marrying me. I mean, you haven't even proposed... Of course, I wouldn't have come here if I didn't think you intended to court me, but...

HOLMES

Shhhhh. Minnie. Yes, of course. I don't have your ring on my person presently but...

Holmes gets down on one knee.

HOLMES

You are the loveliest, most divine creature I have ever laid eyes upon. Will you marry me, Miss Minnie Williams?

MINNIE

Yes. Yes! A million times! Oh my goodness! My sister will be so happy! I can't believe Ben told me I shouldn't trust you. He of all people should know what a gentleman you are!

HOLMES

He told you that?

MINNIE

Yes. He said you were "deadly". Such a strange man!

HOLMES

I'm afraid poor Ben has been a bit sick. He's been troubled with horrible hallucinations.

MINNIE

How dreadful.

HOLMES

But Minnie, you simply must trust me.

MINNIE

I do.

HOLMES

Good. Because it is imperative that you trust me if I'm going to be your husband.

MINNIE

I do, of course.

HOLMES

You'll forgive me, but after such a bad experience with Julia, I want to be certain. I won't go through it again.

MINNIE

I understand. What can I do to prove it to you, then?

HOLMES

What would you suggest?

MINNIE

I'll trust you with all I have.