

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time Audition Sides

Ed

Scenes:

Ed, Mrs. Gascoyne

Ed, Christopher

Ed, Christopher

Actor One, Ed

MRS. GASCOYNE. Mr. Boone, nobody has ever taken an A-level examination in the school before.

ED. He can be the first then.

MRS. GASCOYNE. I don't know if we have the facilities in the school to allow him to do that.

ED. Then get the facilities.

MRS. GASCOYNE. I can't treat Christopher differently to any other student.

ED. Why not?

MRS. GASCOYNE. Because then everybody would want to be treated differently.

ED. So?

MRS. GASCOYNE. It would set a precedent. Christopher can always do his A-levels later. When he's 18. Which is, after all, the age everyone else takes their A-levels.

ED. Christopher is getting a crap enough deal already don't you think, without you shitting on him from a great height as well. Jesus, this is the one thing he's really good at.

MRS. GASCOYNE. We should talk about this later. Maybe on our own.

ED. Are there things which you're too embarrassed to say to me in front of Christopher?

MRS. GASCOYNE. No. It's not that.

ED. Say them now then.

MRS. GASCOYNE. If Christopher takes an A-level then he would have to have a member of staff, a supervisor, looking after him on his own in a separate room.

ED. I'll pay for it. They can do it after school. Here, 50 quid. Is that enough?

MRS. GASCOYNE. Mr. Boone.

ED. I'm not going to take no for an answer.

Christopher, Ed

CHRISTOPHER. I'm sorry.

ED. It's OK.

CHRISTOPHER. I didn't kill Wellington.

ED. I know. Christopher you have to stay out of trouble, OK?

CHRISTOPHER. I didn't know I was going to get into trouble. I like Wellington and I went to say hello to him, but I didn't know that someone had killed him.

ED. Just try and keep your nose out of other people's business.

CHRISTOPHER. I am going to find out who killed Wellington.

ED. Were you listening to what I was saying, Christopher?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes I was listening to what you were saying but when someone gets murdered you have to find out who did it so that they can be punished.

ED. It's a bloody dog, Christopher, a bloody dog.

CHRISTOPHER. I think dogs are important too. I think some dogs are cleverer than some people. Nicholas, for example, who comes to school on Thursdays needs help eating his food and he probably couldn't even fetch a stick.

ED. Leave it.

CHRISTOPHER. I wonder if the police will find out who killed him and punish the person.

ED. I said leave it for God's sake.

CHRISTOPHER. Are you sad about Wellington?

ED. Yes Christopher you could say that. You could very well say that.

Ed, Christopher

ED. What is this?

CHRISTOPHER. It's a book I'm writing.

ED. Is this true? Did you speak to Mrs. Alexander?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes.

ED. Jesus, Christopher, how stupid are you? What did I tell you Christopher?

CHRISTOPHER. Not to mention Mr. Shears' name in our house. And not to go asking Mrs. Shears or anyone about who killed that bloody dog. And not to go trespassing on other people's gardens. And to stop this ridiculous bloody detective game. Except I haven't done any of those things. I just asked Mrs. Alexander about Mr. Shears because I was doing chatting.

ED. Don't give me that bollocks. You knew exactly what you were bloody doing. I've read the book, remember. What else did I say Christopher?

CHRISTOPHER. I don't know.

ED. Come on Memory Man. Not to go round sticking your nose into other people's business. And what do you do? You go around sticking your nose in other people's business. You go around digging up the past and sharing it with every Tom, Dick, and Harry you bump into. What am I going to do with Christopher? What the fuck am I going to do with you?

CHRISTOPHER. I was just chatting with Mrs. Alexander. I wasn't doing investigating.

ED. I ask you to do one thing for me, Christopher. One thing.

CHRISTOPHER. I didn't want to talk to Mrs. Alexander. It was Mrs. Alexander who ... *(Ed grabs Christopher, Christopher screams, they tussle, Ed hits Christopher hard, Christopher falls.)*

ED. I need a drink. *(Takes book and leaves, then reenters.)* I'm sorry I hit you. I didn't mean to. I love you very much Christopher. Don't ever forget that. I worry about you, because I don't want to see you getting into trouble, because I don't want you to get hurt.

CHRISTOPHER. Where's my book?

ED. Christopher, do you understand that I love you! *(He holds his right hand up and spreads his fingers, Christopher does the same with his left hand. Their fingers touch.)*

CHRISTOPHER. Is it in the dustbin at the front of the house?