

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

Siobhan

Scenes:

Siobhan, Policeman, Christopher

Siobhan, Christopher

Siobhan, Judy, Christopher

Siobhan, Christopher

Actor Three, Christopher, Siobhan

POLICEMAN. Would you like to tell me what's going on here, young man?

SIOBHAN. "I do not tell lies. Mother used to say that this was because I was a good person. But it is not because I am a good person. It is because I can't tell lies."

CHRISTOPHER. The dog is dead.

POLICEMAN. I'd got that far.

CHRISTOPHER. I think someone killed the dog.

POLICEMAN. How old are you?

CHRISTOPHER. I'm 15 years and 3 months and 2 days.

POLICEMAN. And what precisely are you doing in the garden?

CHRISTOPHER. I'm talking to you.

POLICEMAN. OK, why were you in the garden in the first place?

CHRISTOPHER. I was holding the dog.

POLICEMAN. Why were you holding the dog?

CHRISTOPHER. I like dogs.

POLICEMAN. Did you kill the dog?

CHRISTOPHER. I did not kill the dog.

POLICEMAN. You seem very upset about this. I'm going to ask you once again.

(Christopher starts groaning.) Terrific. Young man I'm going to ask you to stop making that noise and to stand up please calmly and quietly. Marvellous. Great.

Just flipping – *(He tries to lift up Christopher who screams and hits him.)* I'm arresting you assaulting a police officer. I strongly advise you to get into the back of the police car because if you try any of that monkey business again you stupid idiot I am going to seriously lose my shit. Is that understood?

Siobhan, Christopher

SIOBHAN. How are you today Christopher?

CHRISTOPHER. I'm very well thank you.

SIOBHAN. That's good.

CHRISTOPHER. In the bus on the way to school we passed 4 red cars in a row.

SIOBHAN. 4?

CHRISTOPHER. So today is a Good Day.

SIOBHAN. Great. I am glad.

CHRISTOPHER. I've decided I am going to try and find out who killed Wellington because a Good Day is a day for projects and planning things.

SIOBHAN. Who's Wellington?

CHRISTOPHER. Wellington is a dog that used to belong to my neighbor Mrs. Shears who is our friend, but he is dead now because somebody killed him by putting a garden fork through him. And I found him and then a policeman thought I'd killed him but I hadn't and then he tried to touch me so I hit him and then I had to go to the police station.

SIOBHAN. Gosh.

CHRISTOPHER. And I am going to find out who really killed Wellington and make it a project. Even though Father told me not to.

SIOBHAN. Did he?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes.

SIOBHAN. I see.

CHRISTOPHER. I don't always do what I'm told.

SIOBHAN. Why?

CHRISTOPHER. Because when people tell you what to do it is usually confusing and does not make sense. For example people often say "Be quiet" but they don't tell you how long to be quiet for.

SIOBHAN. No. Why did your father tell you not to try to find out who killed Wellington?

CHRISTOPHER. I don't know.

SIOBHAN. If your father's told you not to do something maybe you shouldn't do it.

CHRISTOPHER. Mmm.

SIOBHAN. Well, we're meant to be writing stories today, so why don't you write about what happened to Wellington?

CHRISTOPHER. OK, I will

Siobhan, Judy, Christopher

SIOBHAN. So you're Christopher's mother.

JUDY. That's right. And you're ...

SIOBHAN. I'm Siobhan. It's nice to meet you too.

JUDY. Yeah. Yes. Yes. It's nice to meet you too.

SIOBHAN. Hello Christopher.

CHRISTOPHER. Hello.

SIOBHAN. Are you OK?

CHRISTOPHER. I'm tired.

JUDY. He's a bit upset.

SIOBHAN. Because of the A-level, you said.

JUDY. He won't eat. He won't sleep.

SIOBHAN. Yeah. I spoke to Mrs. Gascoyne after you called.

JUDY. Right.

SIOBHAN. She still actually has your A-level papers in the 3 sealed envelopes in her desk.

CHRISTOPHER. Does that mean I can still do my A-level?

SIOBHAN. I think so. We're going to ring the Reverend Peters to make sure he can still come in this afternoon and be your supervisor. And Mrs. Gascoyne is going to call the examination board to say that you're going to take the exam after all. I thought I should tell you now. So you could think about it.

CHRISTOPHER. So I could think about what?

SIOBHAN. Is this what you want to do Christopher? If you say you don't want to do it, no one is going to be angry with you. And it won't be wrong or illegal or stupid. It will just be what you want and that will be fine.

CHRISTOPHER. I want to do it.

SIOBHAN. OK. How tired are you?

CHRISTOPHER. Very.

SIOBHAN. How's your brain when you think about maths?

CHRISTOPHER. I don't think it really works very well.

SIOBHAN. What's the logarithmic formula for the approximate number of prime numbers not greater than x ?

CHRISTOPHER. I can't think.

Siobhan, Christopher

CHRISTOPHER. What time is it?

SIOBHAN. 7 minutes past 2 in the morning.

CHRISTOPHER. I can't sleep.

SIOBHAN. It's because you're scared of Mr. Shears. You're being silly.

CHRISTOPHER. There's nobody about. You can hear traffic.

SIOBHAN. What cars are there?

CHRISTOPHER. A Fiesta. A Peugeot. A Ford Granada. A Mini Cooper.

SIOBHAN. What colors are they?

CHRISTOPHER. I can't tell. I can only see orange and black. And mixtures of orange and black.

SIOBHAN. Look at the things people have in their front garden.

CHRISTOPHER. Oh yes. Is that an elf?

SIOBHAN. It's a gnome. And a teddy bear. And a little pond, look.

CHRISTOPHER. And an oven. I like looking up at the sky.

SIOBHAN. Me too.

CHRISTOPHER. When you look at the sky at night you know you are looking at stars, which are hundreds and thousands of light years away from you. And some of the stars don't exist anymore because their light has taken so long to get to us that they are already dead, or they have exploded and collapsed into red dwarfs. And that makes you seem very small, and if you have difficult things in your life it is nice to think that they are what is called negligible which means they are so small you don't have to take them into account when you are calculating something. I can't see any stars here.

SIOBHAN. No.

CHRISTOPHER. It's because of all the light pollution in London. All the lights from the streetlights and car headlights and floodlights and lights in the buildings reflect off tiny particles in the atmosphere and they get in the way of light from the stars.

SIOBHAN. I have to go.

CHRISTOPHER. Don't.

SIOBHAN. I have to.

CHRISTOPHER. Siobhan? Siobhan? Where are you? Siobhan?