

1 INT. LONDON APARTMENT - EVENING

SUMMER GRANGER, an attractive woman in her 20s with red hair, is in her bathroom getting ready for a date - smoky eye makeup, a little black dress, the works.

SUMMER hears an alert from her computer in the other room. She excitedly sits down at her desk and reads the PM she has just received from an online dating site.

"See you soon ;)" it reads. The identification photo accompanying the message depicts an attractive man - also in his 20s, also with red hair. SUMMER giggles excitedly and returns to the bathroom.

2 EXT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

SUMMER exits a cab in front of a nightclub and glances nervously around her. The club is in a seedy neighborhood - women at corners, homeless in alleyways. Still, she steels herself and enters the club.

3 INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Fifteen minutes later.

SUMMER sits at the bar, sipping a colorful drink with an umbrella. An empty glass sits beside her current drink. She is miserable: her date didn't show.

With a sigh, SUMMER heads toward the exit. A BURLY, MENACING MAN follows her, but we only see him from behind.

4 EXT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

SUMMER is attempting to hail a cab. One passes her by, and the street is empty. She shivers and pulls her coat closer, then begins walking to the nearest streetlamp.

As she walks, she is aware of someone following her. She quickens her pace, looking behind her as she does. She sees the MENACING MAN, still indiscernible, do the same.

SUMMER begins flat-out running.

SUMMER

(Breathing hard
and frantic)

Help! Someone please help!

She is nearing the streetlamp. So is the MENACING MAN.

He is almost touching her, then overpowers her as we see..

TITLES

The disappearances continue. Newspaper headlines and TV reporters all proclaiming that more red-headed women are going missing fade in one after another.

5 EXT. BAKER ST. - DAY

SUICIDE? KIDNAPPINGS? the final headline shouts as we finally fade out to see that a man is holding the newspaper with the headline we were just reading.

JOHN passes him on his way into the flat.

6 INT. BAKER ST. - DAY

JOHN

Morning, Sher-

(pauses)

SHERLOCK is standing at the kitchen counter, a PIG CARCASS with multiple stab wounds on the table. A number of different blades are arrayed on the table in front of him. He holds a particularly nasty-looking one in his right hand.

JOHN

Examining entry wounds again,
are we?

SHERLOCK

(without looking
up)

Molly didn't have any fresh
corpses. Too much coagulation.

SHERLOCK plunges the knife into the PIG.

JOHN

I see.

(mutters to self)

Can we not take it out to the
bins during the day this time?

SHERLOCK ignores him and again stabs the PIG.

7 INT. BAKER ST. - DAY

JOHN is in front of his laptop, adding another blog entry. "COPPER BEACH HOUSES" this one is titled. He is distracted by AN ALERT CHIME from SHERLOCK'S PHONE.

JOHN

You've got a text, Sherlock.

SHERLOCK is elbow-deep in pig entrails.

SHERLOCK

From whom?

JOHN

Lestrade. Says he's on his way here. Apparently he's got a case for you.

SHERLOCK

Of course he does. Scotland Yard having a proficient police force, now that would be the day.

8 INT. BAKER ST. - DAY

Twenty minutes later.

LESTRADE arrives, and SHERLOCK and JOHN are in the sitting room. The PIG is gone.

LESTRADE

(harried)

Got my text, did you?

SHERLOCK

(acrimonious)

Of course I did, I'm sitting here, aren't I?

LESTRADE ignores this and settles into a chair. He produces the case file and plops it on the coffee table.

LESTRADE

There's been a series of kidnappings. Red-headed women, late 20s to early 30s. Fine one day, gone without a trace the next.

JOHN

Right, I think I saw a headline about it this morning. No leads?

LESTRADE

None, really, except what I've mentioned already, and the fact that they were all members of an online dating site. Gingers-only.

SHERLOCK, who had been rifling through the case documents, looks up at this.

SHERLOCK

Dating site you say.

LESTRADE

Yes. The web site's the only common factor all the women share. We think it's a front for a kidnapping ring.

JOHN

Could even be suicides.

SHERLOCK

You're both wrong. It can't be a kidnapping ring, have you looked through these files? None of the women come from money, nor do they hold positions of power or prestige. Besides, you would have had ransom demands at this point.

As far as suicides, none of these women had a history of depression or are reported as being anything but happy. The decided lack of bodies is also an obvious problem.

LESTRADE

Alright then, what are your theories?

SHERLOCK

Present but undefined at the moment. I'll need to see the most recent victim's home.

LESTRADE sighs and looks at his phone - he has just received a text.

LESTRADE

Well, you're in luck, the last girl to go missing was apparently last seen at a club downtown. That's where I'll be; go to the apartment and then meet me there. I'll text you the address.

LESTRADE leaves. SHERLOCK, meanwhile is already up and putting on his coat and scarf.

JOHN

So you have some ideas then?

SHERLOCK

A few. I'll see you at the apartment, there'll be a cab coming down the street in two minutes and I don't have time to wait for you.

With that, SHERLOCK is out the door and on the case.