

**YOUNG ADVENTURERS LTD.**

Idea based on the works of  
Agatha Christie

Treatment By  
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ROBERT BERESFORD, better known as Bobby, an American, is going through some old things in the attic of his house because he is bored and there's nothing better to do. A girl is asking for him at the door. She is SAMANTHA JOYCE, Bobby's steady girlfriend. They are both college students at the same college. He is a major in Criminology. She is an English major and a mystery fan.

He tells her to come up to the attic.

He has found a very old diary that belonged to his grandmother. He reveals to her that his grandparents were immortalized by Dame Agatha Christie in her novels, The Secret Adversary, Partners in Crime, and a few others. His grandparents were Tommy and Tuppence Beresford.

He mentions that the ASSISTANT to his grandparents, ALBERT BATT, is still alive. They locate Albert at a CONVELESCENCE HOME in LONDON. However, they arrive to find that Albert is dying. In attendance is Albert's GRANDSON, SIDNEY BATT, a film student.

Also in attendance is a stuffy POLICE INSPECTOR from SCOTLAND YARD named INSPECTOR HANNIBAL.

A LAWYER, contacts Bobby about property that was willed to him by Albert. It turns out to be BLUNT'S INTERNATIONAL DETECTIVE AGENCY. Albert has preserved it all these years. Well, it isn't well preserved. It needs lots of restoration beginning with an excellent dusting to get rid of all the cobwebs that have been left there since Tommy's death in 1974.

In the midst of cleaning, which Samantha organizes, there are many hilarious incidents. Sidney reaches the door leading to the Beresford's inner office. He opens it

gentlemanly for Samantha bowing as it opens. The door swings off its' hinges and he is left supporting it by the doorknob. He puts the door aside. Bobby takes a step into the side room of the inner office and falls through the floor.

What he finds is a BASEMENT ROOM CONCEALED from everyone. It is a SECRET VAULT where the records of the various cases are kept. On the table is a dossier labeled “for Aggie’s use only.”

Reading through the file, they come to the final entry. This passage was not written in the same hand as the others. They soon discover that Tuppence Beresford had kept the diary for Miss Christie but that the final passage was written by Albert himself.

“Missus Beresford can’t continue this book. She’s vanished. Mr. Beresford is going out of his mind. He can’t find her anywhere. She left the agency at 6 p.m. last night. She hasn’t returned.” The writing is dated December 22, 1973.

The three of them consult Inspector Hannibal in his OFFICE at SCOTLAND YARD. Hannibal relates the facts of the case. Since the entry they found, she had been spotted in a few places but all leads came up false.

Later, at Bobby’s house, Samantha suggests that they reopen the agency and investigate the disappearance of Bobby’s grandmother, Prudence “Tuppence” Beresford.

Bobby tells her that it is a waste of time but Samantha insists.

Samantha advertises in the newspaper for any information leading to the whereabouts of Tuppence.

A few days later, Samantha comes running in. She has had a reply to the advertisement. It was sent by an unnamed individual that would like to meet them at an

old bar called the ACE OF SPADES. Samantha remembers that the Ace of Spades was the location for murder in the story “Finessing the King.”

Bobby says that it is probably a crank but he is convinced by Sidney and Samantha to go.

Inspector Hannibal gets them their detection licenses and Blunt’s International Detective Agency is rededicated with the name of the company Tommy and Tuppence Beresford had first used, Young Adventurers Ltd. That is not before Sidney drops the bronze plaque with the new name on it on Bobby’s foot.

Samantha and Bobby leave Sidney outside on guard at the Ace of Spades. A BOBBY inquires what Sidney is doing.

Meanwhile, inside the Ace of Spades, Bobby and Samantha are shown to a side booth covered by a drape. Inside the booth is a man, late 40’s. His name is IAN MCWHITTIER. He speaks with a Scottish accent. He says he knows where Tuppence Beresford is. A shot rings out. He has been shot in the back from the next booth. Samantha screams and faints to the floor. A man in a dark hat, boots, and a long overcoat runs out of the pub. He almost knocks down Sidney.

Bobby comes rushing out. He almost knocks down a bewildered Sidney.

Bobby gives chase but loses the man in the fog.

Back at the Ace of Spades, Samantha is trying to treat the dying man while the ambulance is on the way. Ian McWhittier utters his dying words, “Tuppence...Tuppence...Baker Street...Ask Mrs. Hudsssss.”

Bobby returns and Samantha explains what has happened.

They search for the woman the dead man told about. They find a place on BAKER STREET. They bump into a woman in the street who says she knew Mr. McWhittier. Her Name is Mrs. Hudson. After they finish their conversation, they see her enter 221 B Baker Street. Bobby and Samantha turn to each other and laugh.

A mysterious figure glances down from an upper floor window.

Mrs. Hudson has told them that her sister in Lancashire had a elderly female lodger but that the lodger moved on a few days ago, the day of Albert's death.

Samantha suggests that they take a little trip.

However, when they reach MRS. HUDSON'S SISTER, EDNA, they reach a tiny obstacle. Edna died during the night. However, they find a rather interesting and expensive lacy hat. Edna's DAUGHTER, PRISCILLA, says that the hat was not her mother's.

Sidney says that his grandfather always used to say that the local pub was always a good place to gather information.

Bobby enters the LOCAL PUB, THE BULL'S HORNS. There there is a CAB DRIVER who claims he drove an elderly spinster type to a small secluded hotel in the adjacent county. The hotel is called THE PINES.

Bobby and Samantha head for the local LIBRARY and decide to do some reading on the tales of Tommy and Tuppence.

Sidney gets himself hired as a bellboy at the Pines.

Later that day, two of the beautiful people book themselves into the hotel, Lord Blunt and his wife, the Countess Francesca Warwick, who are actually Bobby and Samantha in disguise.

Francesca Warwick is a glamorous heiress of the Warwick legacy. The fortune was made in rubber bands. “No matter how gold and oil go, rubber bands always bounce back.”

They are settled in a SUITE of rooms. Bobby and Samantha discuss how they are going to pay for all this.

At dinner that night, Samantha makes the acquaintance of several elderly personages.

Among them SIR CEDRIC SIMPSON, a retired commodities broker and his wife, LADY AUDREY SIMPSON. They are there on holiday. They also make the acquaintance of a MISS ROBINSON. She was a nurse in the war and is a widow. Bobby is convinced that this is Tuppence Beresford.

In the corner sits a thin old woman with a decorative hat. She is quietly sipping tea.

Meanwhile, Miss Robinson is discussing knitting tea cozies. Bobby asks her late husband’s name. She replies it was Nicholas.

That night, there is a party at the hotel. Bobby walks into the woman who was sitting at the corner table, MRS. ANNIS.

Sidney, who has seen too many James Bond movies, decides to shadow Miss Robinson. He falls over a railing and lands in the lap of a MAID. The maid is not at all happy about it, but he is however.

Meanwhile, Samantha has received a note brought up by a MESSENGER from the lobby. The note says, “Meet me in the garden during the party tonight. Tuppence.”

While at THE GARDEN, she is disturbed by a cratchety OLD MAN with a cane. From the FRENCH WINDOWS of the BALLROOM, Mrs. Annis glances out.

At THE SUITE, Samantha tells Bobby of the experience.

During the night, Bobby is awakened by Samantha's screams. She is alone in bed. He is about to rush into the darkened room but she stops him at the door. He grabs a flashlight. His light shines on a poisonous snake getting closer and closer to Samantha.

Bobby grabs a poker from the nearby fireplace and starts to thrash at the snake. People come out of their rooms. Sir Cedric Simpson comes running out of his room carrying a hunting rifle. He tells Bobby to stand aside. He blasts the snake dead.

Next morning, at breakfast, Bobby discusses leaving the Pines. Samantha insists they stay.

Inspector Hannibal arrives on the scene.

He spots Bobby and Samantha. Sidney tells him what is going on.

Sir Cedric stops by the table and tells Bobby and Samantha to “chin up.” He smiles. There is a gold cap on a tooth on the upper row on the left side of his mouth.

Later that day, Samantha is relaxing in the garden reading the Agatha Christie's short story collection, Partners in Crime.

We see a title on a page, “The Clergyman's Daughter.” She looks up to see Inspector Hannibal speaking to Mrs. Annis in a far off section of the garden. He is holding her hand.

Samantha leaves a message with Sidney to tell Bobby that she has gone into town.

Samantha bumps into Mrs. Annis and invites her to come along. Mrs. Annis excepts.

Mrs. Annis and Samantha are alone in a HAT SHOP trying on many varieties of frilly hats. The SALESLADY walks away to attend a CUSTOMER that has just entered the store, the old man.

Samantha whispers that she knows who Mrs. Annis is.

SAMANTHA:

“What do I mean? I mean it is quite an honor. Getting to meet the great Tuppence Beresford.”

Mrs. Annis confesses that she is indeed the missing Tuppence. Tuppence makes Samantha promise to keep it a secret. A killer is following Tuppence.

Samantha remembers the book. She tells Tuppence that her troubles are over because she knows who the murderer is.

Bobby is going through the hotel registration book. He looks down and finds a booklet on the hotel. It states that before it was renovated into The Pines it was a boarding house named THE RED HOUSE. The Red House was featured in the Agatha Christie tale, “The Clergyman’s Daughter.”

Samantha returns to the suite. Bobby is looking for their copy of Partners in Crime. She tells him that she found Tuppence and that they have to trap a murderer.

Sidney, who has been glancing through Postern of Fate rushes in. They ignore him.

Inspector Hannibal hands Bobby the ballistic report on the gun that shot Ian McWhittier.

Samantha and Bobby concoct a plot to get the murderer.

That evening, Samantha and Tuppence take a leisurely walk in the garden. The moon is full. The stars twinkle.

Inspector Hannibal watches from the French windows as the two ladies pass by. Sidney stands guard at the GARDEN GATE. He is knocked on the head and tied up.

Bobby is hidden in a group of trees. He feels a gun in his back. He is told not to move. He is tied up.

A shot rings out. The ladies run. The murderer is in pursuit.

Bobby spots an axe embedded in one of the trees.

Sidney struggles to get free.

More gun shots. The murderer is in pursuit.

Meanwhile, Bobby is loosening his bonds with a sharp edge of the axe.

Sidney gets free and thanks Houdini.

The ladies run through the garden gate. Sidney hides in the shadows. The murderer is about to follow them through when Sidney jumps onto his back and hangs on. The murderer waves around Sidney like a flag waving from a pole.

Bobby catches up and knocks the murderer out.

Hannibal walks up.

Hannibal congratulates them all. It is revealed that the murderer is CROCKETT'S EVIL NEPHEW, GERALD, from the story "The Clergyman's Daughter." He had taken on the identity of Sir Cedric Simpson to live as a nobleman. It was a cover for his real actions, revenge on Tommy and Tuppence for the foiling of his and his aunt's plot to scare Lois Hargreaves from the Red House and split up between themselves all the loot Lois's aunt had hidden on the estate.

Sidney tells them what he tried to say before. Hannibal was the name of Tommy and Tuppence's pet dog in the book Postern of Fate. There is no Inspector Hannibal at Scotland Yard. The Inspector confesses that he is actually TOMMY BERESFORD and that he took on the identity so he could help and spend time with his beloved Tuppence. Sidney calls the real police. Tommy volunteers to pay Bobby and Samantha's bill.

Next day, at Young Adventurers Ltd., Bobby, Samantha, and Sidney toast to success and the new agency with a bottle of French champagne that had been sent to them by the Beresfords.

There is a knock on the door.

Sidney issues someone in. It is the Old Man from the Pines. He congratulates them and then asks for their help on a case he is working on. He hands Samantha his card.

It reads:

“Sherlock Holmes, Private Consultant, 221 B. Baker Street.”

Bobby tells the visitor he'd be pleased to help him as soon as he and Samantha get back from our honeymoon. She accepts and the film ends with Bobby and Samantha in a long kiss.

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