Today I woke up at 9 AM. I was really excited, because I realized it was my birthday! I walked down to the kitchen and there was my mum waiting for me to greet me. She gave me *The Hound of the Baskervilles* - one of the Sherlock Holmes books (I absolutely love them!) and a really beautiful dress- it was baby blue with little white dots everywhere. I couldn’t wait to wear it, so I put it on 5 minutes later. Then I ate my birthday breakfast- a doughnut with a cup of tea - and I went to my best friend’s house, because she wanted to see me.

When I came to Katie’s house, her mom opened the door and she told me that Katie had left about 10 minutes before. I was really confused. Why did she want to see me in her house if she had left a little bit earlier? Katie’s mum told me that she would be waiting for me in our favorite coffeehouse, so I caught the bus and went there. Johnny B Goode’s was a very unique and amazing place. It was decorated in the 60s style and there was a beautiful red jukebox! I sat by our favorite table and waited for Katie. After half an hour, 5 phones and tons of Facebook messages I was frightened. “What if someone kidnapped her,” I thought. Then a waitress brought me a big latte macchiato and a piece of carrot cake.

“Hey! What’s that? I didn’t order anything!” I said.

“ It’s on the house ,“ she answered and walked away.

I didn’t know what was happening. My best friend is lost and then I receive free coffee and a piece of cake?! “Something’s wrong,” I thought. Then I noticed a little piece of paper that was lying next to my carrot cake. I grabbed it and read what was there.

***Drink fast your coffee and eat your cake***

***Cause Katie isn’t in this café.***

***She will be waiting for you till 3***

***In some place that is on Baker Street.***

***“What number?” you are asking me.***

***Two hundred and twenty one B.***

***If you find out what’s going on***

***I guarantee you’ll have fun.***

***But remember! After 7***

***Your friend will be gone forever.***

“O my God! I need to go to Baker Street!” I thought. I drank my coffee and eaten my cake really fast and 3 minutes later I was on the bus on the way to Baker Street 221B. When I came to this street I realized that there’s no such address. “The kidnapper has fooled me! Where do I need to go to rescue Katie?” I wondered. And then I had an idea. Sherlock Holmes of course! Today my mom gave me *The Hound of the Baskervilles* – a novel about Holmes’s adventures. Information about where Katie was must be hidden in this book! In the nursery rhyme written by the kidnapper Baker Street 221B wasn’t an address, but it was a clue. A clue to the real Katie’s location! I went home really fast. My mom wasn’t at work, so I decided to make a little interrogation.

“Mom, had you marked anything in this book you gave me this morning?” I asked.

“Of course no, honey. Why would I do that?” my mom was confused.

“Oh, okay, it doesn’t matter yet.”

I was wondering. If it wasn’t my mother’s joke, had Katie really been kidnapped?! Then I had another idea.

“Mom, where did you buy this book?”

“At the flea market, sweetheart. It looked really unique and interesting, so I thought you’d love it. Is there something wrong with *The Hound of the Baskervilles*?”

“Oh, no, of course not! It’s wonderful. But tell me, did the man who sold you that book look suspicious? You know, like a criminal or something?”

“Hmm… no, he looked quite normal. Only weird thing was that he came to me when I was looking for some antiques and asked if I wanted to buy something for my daughter’s birthday. He showed me this book and said that was perfect for all of the Sherlock Holmes’s lovers. And it was a really bargain, because he sold me that for only 2pounds! I didn’t wonder if it was strange or not, I just bought it. What’s going on, sweetie? Why do you ask me so many questions?”

“Katie has been kidnapped.”

“Oh, you’re just kidding, aren’t you?”

“No, mom, I’m not. She invited me to her house, but when I came there this morning, her mom told me she had left a few minutes earlier.”

“And that’s why you’re thinking she’s been kidnapped?” my mom couldn’t believe that it was all serious.

“Then Katie’s mom told me that she would be waiting for me in our favorite coffeehouse, so I went there but she wasn’t there either!”

“But maybe Katie thought about your other favorite coffeehouse?”

“I sent her tons of messages, phoned her about a hundred times and waited for her about half an hour! And she just vanished!”

“Oh my God! But how do you know that it’s not a joke? Maybe someone’s making fun out of you and you still think it’s serious?”

“But mom, look. The message I got from the kidnapper says that she will be gone forever if I don’t find her until 7 o’ clock!”

“Okay, it looks really serious. So you’d better start searching if you don’t want to lose your best friend,” mom said and I ran to my room.

I grabbed the book and looked for the clues. I put the piece of paper with the nursery rhyme out of my pocket and read it once again.

***She will be waiting for you till 3***

***In some place that is on Baker Street.***

3! Maybe it’s something hidden on the third page. I opened the book at the page 3, but there wasn’t anything helpful. I read the kidnapper’s message again.

***But remember! After 7***

***Your friend will be gone forever.***

Oh, of course! A clue must be on the page 7! But… it wasn’t. I had to collect my thoughts. If not page 3 and not page 7… it must be page 37! I opened the book at the thirty seventh page and… no, it wasn’t that. Okay, so if not the page 37, maybe it was page 73? Yes, that was it! Some letters were marked with a pink highlighter. I grabbed some piece of paper and a pen and wrote all the letters that were pink. Those letters were another message from the kidnapper! Few minutes later every element of this puzzle was on the proper place.

***Hey! You found me. Yeah, that’s me.***

***Let’s meet at 4 on the Tower Bridge.***

I checked the hour. I had only 1 hour! I grabbed *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and put it in my bag. 10 minutes later I was on the tube going to the Tower Bridge. When I arrived, I noticed a boy who was wearing a suit. He held 3 red roses and a big piece of paper with my name on it. I came closer to him and he gave me the flowers and the message. Another message from the kidnapper! I opened it quickly and read what was inside.

***What a lovely view from there!***

***Katie loved it when I brought her here.***

***If you want to see her again***

***Better be nice and follow my plan.***

***Go home now and in the living room.***

***You will find me and some sweet perfume.***

***Unless you make me a cup of tea***

***Your best friend will sink in the sea.***

***So be polite and don’t try to cheat***

***I guarantee you two will meet.***

Katie would sink in the sea?! I couldn’t believe this. I went home as fast as I could. When I opened the front door and turned the light on I was shocked. “HAPPY BIRTHDAY!” everyone shouted. I completely forgot that today was my birthday! Katie came to me and gave me a gift- a very expensive perfume that I totally wanted to get!

“You planned all of that?” I asked her.

“Yes, with a little help of your mom, who gave you that book,” she answered.

“We know that you love books about Sherlock Holmes, so we decided to make you feel like a real detective,” my mom said.

“I’m sorry that you were worried about me and you thought I would die. It was only to make you forget that today was your birthday,” Katie told me and I started to laugh.

I couldn’t ever imagine that I would solve a mystery, just like Sherlock Holmes! I really enjoyed the party Katie threw for me. I am sure that I have the best friend in the whole world!