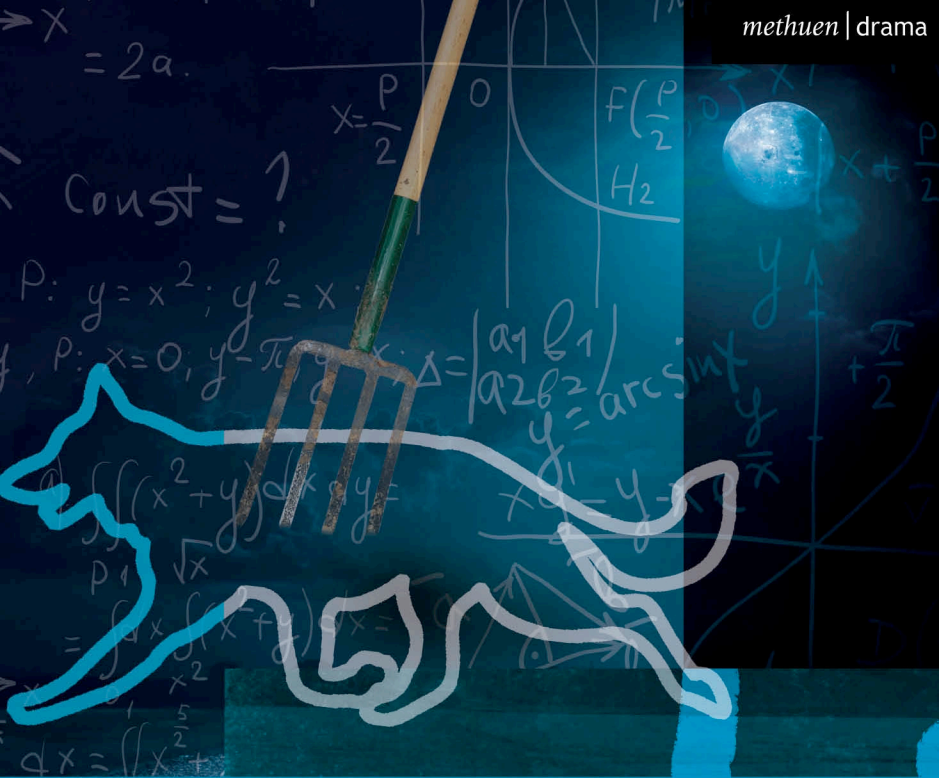


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# THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

Mark Haddon

Adapted by Simon Stephens



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Dog in the Night-Time**

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# **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time**

*Based on the novel by*  
**Mark Haddon**

*Adapted by*  
**Simon Stephens**

*Activities by*  
Paul Bunyan and Ruth Moore

*Critical Scripts Series Editors*  
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**The Curious Incident of the  
Dog in the Night-Time**

## **Characters**

**Christopher**

**Siobhan**

*Ed, Christopher's dad*

**Mrs Alexander**

*Judy, Christopher's mother*

**Mrs Shears / Voice One / Mrs Gascoyne / Woman on Train /  
Woman on Heath**

**Policeman One / Voice Two / Mr Thompson / Rhodri / Man  
behind Counter / Posh Man / Drunk Two / Shopkeeper /  
Roger**

**Duty Sergeant / Voice Three / Mr Wise / Uncle Terry /  
Drunk One / London Transport Policeman / Customer /  
Man on Phone**

**Reverend Peters / Voice Four / Station Policeman / Ticket  
Collector / Station Guard / Man with Socks / London  
Policeman / Ukrainian One /**

**Number 44 / Voice Five / Lady in Street / Information /  
Punk Girl / Ukrainian Two**

*All actors remain on stage unless prescribed otherwise.*

*There is also a dead dog. With a fork sticking out of it.*

*Scenes run into one another without interruption regardless of  
alterations in space or time or chronology.*



## *Part One*

*A dead dog lies in the middle of the stage. A large garden fork is sticking out of its side.*

**Christopher Boone**, fifteen years old, stands on one side of it. His forty-two-year-old neighbour **Mrs Shears** stands on the other.

*They stand for a while without saying anything. The rest of the company watch, waiting to see who is going to dare to speak first.*

**Mrs Shears** What in Christ's name have you done to my dog?

**Christopher** *is frozen to the spot.*

**Mrs Shears** Oh no. Oh no. Oh no. Oh Christ.

**Christopher's** teacher, twenty-seven-year-old **Siobhan** opens **Christopher's** book. *She reads from it.*

**Siobhan** It was seven minutes after midnight. The dog was lying on the grass in the middle of the lawn in front of Mrs Shears' house.

**Mrs Shears** Get away from my dog.

**Siobhan** Its eyes were closed. It looked as if it was running on its side, the way dogs run when they think they are chasing a cat in a dream. But the dog was not running or asleep. The dog was dead.

**Mrs Shears** Get away from my dog.

**Siobhan** There was a garden fork sticking out of the dog. The dog was called Wellington. It belonged to Mrs Shears who was our friend. She lived on the opposite side of the road, two houses to the left.

**Mrs Shears** Get away from my dog.

**Christopher** *takes two steps away from the dog.*

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**Siobhan** My name is Christopher John Francis Boone. I know all the countries of the world and the capital cities. And every prime number up to 7507.

**Mrs Shears** Get away from my dog, for Christ's sake.

**Christopher** *puts his hands over his ears. He closes his eyes. He rolls forward. He presses his forehead on to the grass. He starts groaning.*

**Siobhan** After twelve and a half minutes a policeman arrived. He had a big orange leaf stuck to the bottom of his shoe which was poking out from one side. This is good, Christopher. It's quite exciting. I like the details. They make it more realistic.

*A Policeman enters. He has a big orange leaf stuck to the bottom of his shoe, which is poking out to one side. He squats next to Christopher.*

**Siobhan** He squatted down next to me. He said to me:

**Policeman One** Would you like to tell me what's going on here, young man?

**Christopher** *stops groaning.*

*There is some time.*

**Christopher** *lifts his head from the ground.*

*There is some time.*

**Christopher** *looks at the Policeman.*

*There is some time.*

**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 One** I'd got that far.

**Christopher** I think someone killed the dog.

**Policeman One** How old are you?

**Christopher** I'm fifteen years and three months and two days.

**Policeman One** And what precisely are you doing in the garden?

**Christopher** I'm talking to you.

**Policeman One** Why were you in the garden in the first place?

**Christopher** I could see Wellington in the garden, it looked like someone tried to plant him.

**Policeman One** Did you try to plant the dog?

**Christopher** No, I did not. I like dogs.

**Policeman One** Did you kill the dog?

**Christopher** I did not kill the dog.

**Policeman One** Is this your fork?

**Christopher** No.

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

**Christopher** *starts groaning.*

**Policeman One** Terrific.

**Christopher** *carries on groaning.*

**Policeman One** Young man I'm going to ask you to stop making that noise and to stand up please calmly and quietly.

**Christopher** *carries on groaning.*

**Policeman One** Marvellous. Great. Just flipping –

*The Policeman tries to lift him up by his arm.*

**Christopher** *screams. He hits the Policeman.*

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*The **Policeman** stares at **Christopher**. For a while the two look at one another, neither entirely sure what to say or quite believing what has just happened.*

**Policeman One** I'm arresting you for 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 little shit, I am going to seriously lose my rag. Is that understood?

**Siobhan** I find people confusing. This is for two main reasons. The first main reason is that people do a lot of talking without using any words. Siobhan says that if you raise one eyebrow it can mean lots of different things. It can mean 'I want to do sex with you'. I never said that.

**Christopher** Yes you did.

**Siobhan** I didn't use those words, Christopher.

**Christopher** You did on September 12<sup>th</sup> last year. At first break.

**Siobhan** And it can also mean 'I think that what you just said was very stupid'.

**Duty Sergeant** Could you take your laces out of your shoes please, Christopher?

*He does.*

Thank you. Could you empty your pockets on to the desk please?

**Christopher** Is that in case I have anything in them that I could use to kill myself or escape or attack a policeman with?

*The **Duty Sergeant** looks at him for a beat.*

**Duty Sergeant** That's right.

**Christopher** I've got a Swiss Army knife but I only use that for doing odd jobs not for stabbing things or hurting people.

**Duty Sergeant** Jolly good.

**Voice Four** A piece of string.

**Voice Five** A piece of a wooden puzzle.

**Voice Six** Three pellets of rat food for Toby, my rat.

**Voice One** £1.47 (this was made up of a £1 coin, a 20p coin, two 10p coins, a 5p coin and a 2p coin).

**Voice Six** A red paperclip.

**Voice Four** A key for the front door.

**Voice Five** A Swiss Army knife with thirteen attachments including a wire stripper and a saw and a toothpick and tweezers.

**Christopher** *empties his pockets.*

**Duty Sergeant** Could you take your watch off please, Christopher?

**Christopher** No.

**Duty Sergeant** I'm sorry, Christopher?

**Christopher** I need my watch to know exactly what time it is.

**Duty Sergeant** Take your watch off please, Christopher.

Christopher, please will you take your watch off. I'm asking you for a final time.

Give it here, lad.

*The Duty Sergeant tries to take the watch.*

**Christopher** *starts screaming.*

*The Duty Sergeant stops. He moves away. He nods his head.*

**Christopher** *stops screaming.*

**Duty Sergeant** It's all right, son. You keep it.

**Christopher** *calms down.*

**Duty Sergeant** Do you have any family, Christopher?

**Christopher** Yes I do.

**Duty Sergeant** And who is your family?

**Christopher** Father and Mother but Mother's dead. And also Uncle Terry who is in Sunderland. He is my father's brother and my grandparents too but three of them are dead and Grandma Burton is in a home because she has senile dementia and thinks I'm someone on television.

**Duty Sergeant** Right. Lovely. Do you know your father's phone number, Christopher?

**Christopher** *turns to Ed. Ed looks at him. He holds his hand out in front of him with his fingers stretched.*

**Christopher** *does the same. They touch fingers.*

*Then let go.*

**Christopher** I could see the Milky Way as we drove towards the town centre.

**Ed** Could you?

**Christopher** Some people think the Milky Way is a long line of stars, but it isn't. Our galaxy is a huge disc of stars of millions of light years across and the solar system is somewhere near the outer edge of the disc.

**Ed** *says nothing.*

**Christopher** For a long time scientists were puzzled by the fact that the sky is dark at night even though there are billions of stars in the universe and there must be stars in every direction you look, so that the sky should be full of starlight because there is very little in the way to stop the light reaching earth.

**Ed** *stares at him. Says nothing.*

**Christopher** Then they worked out that the universe was expanding, that the stars were all rushing away from one

another after the Big Bang and the further the stars were away from us the faster they were moving, some of them nearly as fast as the speed of light, which was why their light never reached us.

**Ed** Is that right?

**Christopher** And when the universe has finished exploding all the stars will slow down, like a ball that has been thrown into the air and they will come to a halt and they will all begin to fall towards the centre of the universe again. And then there will be nothing to stop us seeing all the stars in the world because they will all be moving towards us, gradually faster and faster and we will know that the world is going to end soon because when we look up into the sky at night there will be no darkness, just the blazing light of billions and billions of stars, all falling.

**Ed** Terrific.

**Duty Sergeant** Christopher. Mr Boone. Could you come this way please?

**Christopher** Are you going to interview me and record the interview?

**Duty Sergeant** I don't think there will be any need for that. I've spoken to your father and he says you didn't mean to hit the policeman.

Did you mean to hit the policeman?

**Christopher** Yes.

**Duty Sergeant** But you didn't mean to hurt the policeman?

**Christopher** No. I didn't mean to hurt the policeman, I just wanted him to stop touching me.

**Duty Sergeant** You know that it's wrong to hit a policeman don't you?

**Christopher** I do.

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**Duty Sergeant** Did you kill the dog, Christopher?

**Christopher** I didn't kill the dog.

**Duty Sergeant** Do you know that it is wrong to lie to a policeman and that you can get into a very great deal of trouble if you do?

**Christopher** Yes.

**Duty Sergeant** Do you know who killed the dog?

**Christopher** No.

**Duty Sergeant** Are you telling the truth?

**Christopher** Yes. I always tell the truth.

**Duty Sergeant** Right. I'm going to give you a caution.

**Christopher** Is that going to be on a piece of paper like a certificate I can keep?

**Duty Sergeant** No. A caution means that we are going to keep a record of what you did, that you hit a policeman but that it was an accident and that you didn't mean to hurt the policeman.

**Christopher** But it wasn't an accident.

**Ed** Christopher, please.

**Duty Sergeant** If you get into any more trouble we will take out this record and see that you have been given a caution and we will take things much more seriously. Do you understand what I'm saying?

**Christopher** Yes.

**Siobhan** The second main reason is that people often talk using metaphors. These are examples of metaphors:

**Voice One** I am going to seriously lose my rag.

**Voice Two** He was the apple of her eye.

**Voice Three** They had a skeleton in the cupboard.