

Spoiler for *Scenes That Didn't Make It -- #1*

This anecdote assumes that the reader is familiar with being “in a brown study,” a phrase that appears several times in the Sherlock Holmes canon. Merriam-Webster defines *brown study* as “a state of serious absorption or abstraction.” Holmes’ exclamation contains various puns on this rather dated phrase that were set up earlier in the scene. JW is John Watson, and ACD is his literary agent, Arthur Conan Doyle.

Try again, and read below if you still don’t get it...

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OK, here are the puns:

“I’m in a brown study (*walnut room*) in a brown study (*musings state*) of a brown stud (*wall support board*) of a brown study (*Spaniard’s room*) of a brown stud (*the dark ladies’ man*).

Whew! I’m beat.