



MONOLOGUES

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The Curious Case of the Cottingley Fairies by Claire Wittman

(After a young girl's photograph of a fairy becomes a news sensation, supernatural enthusiast SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE calls up his very best frenemy, Harry Houdini.)

DOYLE

Harry! Hullo—hullo—can you—ah, there you are, Harry! How's Bess?
Good, jolly good. And you? Quite recovered from being buried alive? Too soon to joke about it? Well, if I can dig up Sherlock Holmes, surely you can dig up yourself.
What do you mean, "it's different"? It's not diff—well, never mind, then. Are you going to try again?
I'll believe *that* when I see it.
Listen, have you heard about this Cottingley fairy business? Two girls have photographed what they present as living, breathing spiritual creatures.
I'm looking at them now. Have you got the London Standard, morning or evening?
Well, have someone fetch a copy, as soon as you may.
Harry, I believe there's something to it. They've had dozens of locals out...reporters and reverends and the Theosophists, and a fellow from Kodak to verify that it wasn't something the matter with the cameras.
Yes, I know one man's opinion isn't conclusive. That's why I'm going to see for myself. You ought to come, too—can you get away?
I understand. Those milk cans won't escape themselves, after all. But you ought to be involved—who do you trust to come as proxy?
Frank Canfield? Terrible tabloid nuisance, isn't he? Not exactly a high mark of your faith.
I'm bringing along Madam—no, don't start with me. Don't look at me that way. Yes, I can tell how you're looking through the telephone! I'm bringing Madam Spinoza, no matter what you or Jean or anyone else has to say about it. Marvelous old woman. Told me things about myself I didn't even know! So send your skeptical reporter. Send anyone you want. I know what I think. "When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains—*however improbable*—must be the truth."
Yes, I'm quoting myself, and what of it?
Well, then. Goodnight, old chap—ah, hold now, I'll cable you the girls' address for Canfield! Goodnight, Houdini.

THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE COTTINGLEY FAIRIES by Claire Wittman

Length: 90-100 minutes **Cast Size:** 14-21+ actors possible **Genre:** Historical Fantasy Drama

Synopsis: When Lilli Barnes was sixteen years old, she saw a fairy. Encouraged by her impressionable little cousin Mabel, Lilli snaps a photograph, and suddenly, what started as a magical game to distract from the worry of the Great War becomes a national sensation, attracting gullible authors, skeptical reporters, and eccentric spiritualists from all over the world. But swept up in the strangeness of their supernatural sighting, and daunted by the pressures of newfound fame, Lilli and Mabel are left to wonder if they can believe their eyes...or if the "magic" they've uncovered is merely imagination run wild.