

# Sheep Tricks

*aka*

Sheep-Trick-Wolf-Gun

A March Madness Script by Caspian Stonehouse

## Roles.

**Sheep A.** 48 Lines. Leader of the **sheep**. Intelligent, confident, composed.

**Sheep B.** 37 Lines. The younger **lamb**. Chatty, enthusiastic.

**Sheep C.** 31 Lines. The older **lamb**. Rambunctious, emotional.

**Wolf R.** 36 Lines. The **wolf** who is posing as a **sheep**.

# Notes on Script Changes

This is a March Madness script. It is a 10-20 minute script written to be performed several times in a row by different teams who have each prepared their own interpretation.

When you prepare a March Madness performance, there is only one rule: **The actors must speak the exact provided dialogue.** Hearing the exact same lines delivered in different ways, in sometimes contrasting ways, is the joy of March Madness! The ritualistic collective ‘Italian drill’ that takes place before the dress rehearsal, where all the actors on all teams recite this year’s play in unison, brings me much personal joy.

That being said, within the script for **Sheep Tricks**, there are *some* words you are invited to change. You will find many words that have been bolded & coloured **yellow**, **pink**, **green** or **blue** within the script. These are all words or phrases relating to the concepts **sheep**, **trick**, **wolf** and **gun**. You are invited to create an interpretation of the script that changes any or all of these concepts. To support this: **You may change any bolded, coloured word or phrase to a syntactic equivalent<sup>1</sup>** that supports your interpretation.

Besides this, you may also make the following basic changes:

- **Any gendered terms may be altered to accommodate actor or director preferences.<sup>2</sup>**
- **Character names may be changed, and the dialogue may be updated to accommodate this.**
- **Vocalisations may halt and resume.**
- **Wordless vocalisations can be added at any point by any character.**

You will note I have chosen to provide some stage directions in italics. **Stage directions in italics are not dialogue and they do not need to be followed.** They are not intended to limit your creativity but rather to provide you with guidelines for one potential valid interpretation of the character's speech.

In the same vein, some words of dialogue have been underlined to show emphasis; this may also be ignored.

Break a leg!

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<sup>1</sup> What does this mean? You are welcome to make the replacements as long as you like, but you may not ramble off on an unrelated tangent. When Barty and Casey say “Amen!” at the beginning, this could be replaced with a long-winded phrase indicating how deeply they agree, but they may not begin rambling about the price of tea in China!

<sup>2</sup> This includes changing “he” or “she” to “they” in a way that is clearly using it as a third-person plural, even when this would clearly constitute a change in the intended meaning of the dialogue.

# Script.

- 1     **ADORA:** I am glad we are all **sheep** together here on this beautiful day.
- 2     **BARTY:** **Amen!**
- 3     **CASEY:** **Amen!**
- 4     **REMUS:** Uh, yeah!
- 5     **ADORA:** Above all else, we are very thankful for our ability to gather here without having to worry about the **trespass** of **wolves**.
- 6     **BARTY:** Yeah!
- 7     **CASEY:** I love that.
- 8     **REMUS:** No stinkin' **wolves** here.
- 9     **BARTY:** Boo, boo, we hate **wolves!**
- 10    **CASEY:** **Wolves** scare me.
- 11    **ADORA:** But there's no danger from them here. *(Beat.)* Casey, didn't you have something to show me?
- 12    **CASEY:** Oh yeah yeah yeah.
- 13    **BARTY:** Casey learned a new **trick!**
- 14    **CASEY:** Watch this!
- CASEY performs a trick.*
- 15    **BARTY:** <claps and cheers>
- 16    **ADORA:** Very good, Casey.
- 17    **BARTY:** Did you see that?
- 18    **REMUS:** Was that it?
- 19    **BARTY:** Yeah, that's it, like that!
- 20    **ADORA:** Do it again, Casey.
- 21    **REMUS:** Well... I just... what's it for?
- 22    **BARTY:** What do you mean?

23 **ADORA:** **Tricks** aren't for anything, ...?

24 **REMUS:** Remus.

25 **ADORA:** Remus.

26 **CASEY:** Do you not like it? That's okay. Only I worked pretty hard on it. That's all.

27 **BARTY:** Adora?

28 **ADORA:** Yes, Barty?

29 **BARTY:** I don't think she really thinks it's okay if he doesn't like it.

30 **ADORA:** Thank you, Barty. Casey, **lamb**, come here. It was a very good **trick**. Don't let the silly man upset you. He was just confused. He clearly hasn't ever seen **tricks** such as yours before, and we should pity the poor fellow for being so deprived.

31 **CASEY:** But is it true that **tricks** aren't for anything?

32 **ADORA:** **Tricks** are for happiness, **lamb**. Show me again? Very good. **Tricks** make you happy, and they make me happy, and they make Barty happy, and what do we all say?

33 **CASEY:** It is good to be a happy **sheep**.

34 **BARTY:** It is good to be a happy **sheep**.

35 **REMUS:** It is good to be a happy **sheep**.

36 **ADORA:** That's one of the first things a **little lamb** learns, right, Remus?

37 **REMUS:** Right.

38 **BARTY:** Can you do any **tricks**, Remus?

39 **REMUS:** Well, uh...

40 **ADORA:** Oh, do go ahead. Show us what you've got.

41 **REMUS:** Okay, uh... <vocalizes>

42 **CASEY:** Ah!!!

43 **BARTY:** What was that?!

44 **CASEY:** It was scary!

45 **BARTY:** It was cool!

46 **ADORA:** It was loud. You're very loud, for a **sheep**, aren't you, Remus?

47 **REMUS:** I don't know what you're implying.

48 **ADORA:** I'm not implying anything, I'm just commenting. That was awfully loud.

49 **BARTY:** I like being loud. Can we be loud here, Adora?

50 **ADORA:** Yes, we can be loud here. There's no one within earshot who would complain.

51 **BARTY:** AAAAAAH! BAH BAH BAH BAH LOUD LOUD LOUD I AM BARTY AND I AM LOUD AND I AM HERE IN **THE PASTURE** WITH MY FRIENDS CASEY AND ADORA AND REMUS!

52 **CASEY:** Barty, shush! You're making me scaredy!

53 **BARTY:** We don't have to be scaredy, Adora said!

54 **CASEY:** But what if the **wolves** hear you and come find us?

55 **ADORA:** The **wolves** aren't going to come find us here, right, Remus?

56 **REMUS:** Why are you asking me?

57 **ADORA:** To reassure Casey that it is the truth. Which it is, right?

58 **REMUS:** ...Right.

59 **BARTY:** I don't have to yell anymore if it scares you, Casey. I just wanted to try it, but I can be done now. Well. Can I do one more big yell?

60 **ADORA:** You don't have to say you're okay with it if you don't want him to.

61 **CASEY:** He can do one more.

62 **BARTY:** <vocalizes>

63 **CASEY:** That was cool!

64 **REMUS:** I didn't know **sheep** could do that.

65 **ADORA:** You could do that.

66 **CASEY:** <vocalizes>

67 **ADORA:** Good job, Casey!

68 **BARTY:** Yeah, really good job!

69 **CASEY:** You're sure no **wolves** can hear us?

70 **REMUS:** We're sure.

71 **CASEY:** <vocalizes>

72 **BARTY:** <vocalizes>

*A/N: This could be two quick shouts of happiness, or five minutes of squawking back and forth.*

73 **ADORA:** So, Remus. What brings you here? To **the pasture**?

74 **REMUS:** I'm just looking around. Seeing the world. Learning new ways to live. Getting cultured.

75 **ADORA:** I see. And have you always been a **sheep**?

76 **REMUS:** Excuse me?

77 **ADORA:** You're right, let me rephrase. Are you a **sheep**?

78 **REMUS:** Am I a **sheep**?

79 **ADORA:** Yes, that is what I am asking.

80 **REMUS:** Of, of course I'm a **sheep**! Why would you, why would you ask something like that?

81 **ADORA:** Well. You sound like a **wolf**. And you think like a **wolf**. It's really giving wolf-in-sheep's clothing, if I'm being honest.

82 **REMUS:** That's preposterous!

83 **ADORA:** Is it, though?

84 **REMUS:** If you think I'm a **wolf**, why did you let me come here?

85 **ADORA:** I don't know you're a **wolf** for sure. Maybe you're a **sheep** who used to be a **wolf**. If you were a **wolf** until very recently, it would explain why you think like them and look like them. And if you only just started your life as a **sheep**, then you're just a **little lamb** and you need looking after.

86 **CASEY:** Have I been a **sheep** longer than Remus, Adora?

87 **ADORA:** I'm almost certain you have, **lamb**. Wouldn't that be right, Remus?

88 **REMUS:** Yes.

- 89 **ADORA:** Good.
- 90 **CASEY:** So I have seniority over him. Oh, but seniority doesn't make you better. I was here before Barty too, but I'm scaredier than she is.
- 91 **BARTY:** I'm not scared of anything!
- 92 **REMUS:** Not even **wolves**?
- 93 **BARTY:** Nope! I know Adora will protect us.
- 94 **CASEY:** I know that too, but I'm still scaredy.
- 95 **BARTY:** Well maybe you should just trust Adora more!
- 96 **CASEY:** I do trust Adora, I do! Don't say I don't trust her!
- 97 **ADORA:** **Lambkins**. Casey, I wish you weren't still scared of **wolves**, not because I think you don't trust me, but because I want you to be happier. **Wolves** can't hurt us here. We're perfectly safe.
- 98 **REMUS:** Are you sure?
- 99 **BARTY:** Um, Remus? I don't think you're helping comfort Casey.
- 100 **REMUS:** Well, I just thought maybe some details on how you're protected would help convince her. Why do you think you're so safe here, when it seems like anyone could wander on in?
- 101 **ADORA:** If a **wolf** does make its way in here, bypassing all the warning signs we put out? I'll deal with it.
- 102 **REMUS:** But how?
- 103 **ADORA:** With my **gun**. *She gestures, revealing it to REMUS.*
- 104 **REMUS:** <vocalizes>
- 105 **BARTY:** That was a funny noise.
- 106 **REMUS:** How does a **sheep** have a **gun**?
- 107 **ADORA:** Don't worry about it.
- 108 **CASEY:** I did my **trick** for a guy and he just gave it to us!
- 109 **BARTY:** That is not true.

- 110 CASEY:** It could be true! If we're not telling him the real answer why can't my **trick** be part of the story?
- 111 BARTY:** 'Cause you just did your **trick** for the first time for anyone just now and we were all here.
- 112 ADORA:** It is a great **trick** though, Casey. Really wonderful. Don't you agree, Remus?
- 113 REMUS:** Yes, absolutely.
- 114 ADORA:** So glad you agree. Why don't you try it for us, Remus?
- 115 REMUS:** What?
- 116 ADORA:** Casey's **trick**. Why don't you try it for us? **Sheep** love doing **tricks**, don't we?
- 117 REMUS:** *(long pause)* Yeah. *(He does the trick.)*
- 118 BARTY:** You looked funny doing that.
- 119 CASEY:** He needs to practice! Do it again!
- 120 ADORA:** Do it again, Remus.
- 121 BARTY:** Again, again! Again, again! Again—
- 122 ADORA:** Alright, Barty, let the fellow breathe.
- 123 CASEY:** Again, again! Okay. You did a good job at my **trick**, Remus.
- 124 REMUS:** Thanks.
- 125 BARTY:** Is Remus going to be our new **tenderfoot**, Adora?
- 126 ADORA:** *(gazes assessingly at Remus)* No. He's just passing through.
- 127 BARTY:** Aww. Are you sure you won't stay? I can teach you about **bellwethers**. And **mustering**!
- 128 CASEY:** And I can teach you more **tricks**, once I make them up.
- 129 REMUS:** No. Sorry. I can feel that my time in your presence is drawing to a close.
- 130 BARTY & CASEY:** Awwwww.
- 131 ADORA:** Let me have a word with the man, before he leaves us.
- 132 REMUS:** How does a **sheep** get a **gun**?



- 133 **ADORA:** I'm not telling.
- 134 **REMUS:** Doesn't seem fair and balanced.
- 135 **ADORA:** It's never been balanced. You **wolves** had your natural weapons, and we **sheep** had, what, exactly? No one gives two shakes about fairness until it's them on the business end. You're lucky I don't **point this thing at** you.
- 136 **REMUS:** Why...
- 137 **ADORA:** Why don't I? When you would have done worse to us? Guess I just don't have your **killer** instincts. *(Beat)* And you were a good sport about the **trick**.
- 138 **REMUS:** I've never met a **sheep** like you before.
- 139 **ADORA:** How many **sheep** have you met without **devouring** them? *(pause)* Go on. Get out of here. Out! Get! Get!
- 140 **BARTY:** I don't think he was a **sheep** at all.
- 141 **ADORA:** No. He could maybe be one if he wanted to, but he isn't one of us.
- 142 **CASEY:** Was he a **wolf**?
- 143 **ADORA:** Maybe. I think he started as a **wolf**. I'm not sure what he is now.
- 144 **BARTY:** He did your **trick**, Casey! Maybe that changed him.
- 145 **CASEY:** Do you really think? Can my **trick** change **wolves**? I can fix them?!
- 146 **ADORA:** Maybe. I don't know about that. But I do know one thing for sure – I am glad we are all **sheep** together here on this beautiful day.
- 147 **BARTY:** **Amen!**
- 148 **CASEY:** **Amen!!**
- 149 **ADORA:** And above all else, we are thankful for our ability to gather here without having to worry about the **trespass** of **wolves**.
- 150 **CASEY and BARTY:** <vocalize>

End.