

# Kaspar Hauser Playscript

## Scene 1:

**Team of detectives sitting at the table and drinking coffee.**

Chief Hey guys, here's a job for you.

inspector  
entering the  
room:

One detective **K A S P A R H A U S E R**

reading

slowly

2<sup>nd</sup> detective Rings a bell. Wasn't that a long time ago?

Let's see what the internet says...

Starts the  
computer and  
searches for

**Kaspar Hauser**



Detective  
reads out  
wikipedia  
information:

**Kaspar Hauser (born probably 30 April 1812 and murdered in 1833)**

**CASE STILL UNSOLVED**

There is a lot of evidence to suggest that Kaspar spent his childhood completely isolated in the cellar of a nearby castle where he had no contact to other human beings except for a guard that came to feed him. The only things Kaspar could say (in German) were: I want to be a horseman, as my father was. When Kaspar was 14, the guard eventually took him to Nuremberg. So one day in May 1826 he was found on a square in Nuremberg.

**Meanwhile the detectives are trying to imagine what happened:**

## Scene 2 opens up parallel:

Guard in  
cellar with  
Kaspar  
Hauser

*opens door to Kaspar's prison cell.  
takes away the toy horse from Kaspars hand  
feeds him  
stands him up  
teaches him how to walk  
leads him all the way to Nuremberg*





**Scene 3:**

**Nuremberg, Unschlittplatz, 1826**

**Kaspar alone on stage, letter in hand, freeze. Only tweeting of a bird. He looks up, smiles, waves his letter.**

K: Horse, horse

*(loses letter, two teenagers appear, one picks up the letter)*

T1: Sir, you lost something.

(no reaction)

T2: Your letter fell down.

*Kaspar reacts unconsciously takes letter, looks excited up the tree)*

T2: What is up there? What do you see?



*K: ( quite excited point with finger to tweeting bird*

K: Horse, Horse!

*Teenagers look at him with astonishment, laugh, go back a few steps.*

T1: A horse. Aha! Are you sure?

T2: You know what. That's a bloody idiot, a lunatic! Maybe he has escaped from the lunatics' home!

T1: Or is he stone drunk?

T2: Don't think so, it's still morning time!

K: Horse, horse, horse!

T1: Hey, what's that? A horse? That's a blackbird singing up there in the branches.

T2: Black ----- bird!! You know. Black ---- bird - no Whinny Whinny. Black--bird tweet—tweet. Whinny Whinny not climb up tree. Whinny Whinny too heavy. If Winnie Winnie goes up tree, branch breaks, Whinny Whinny crashes to ground, Whinny Whinny dead.

*K: totally out of mind imitating a squirrel's movements.*

K: Horse, horse, horse.

T1: He is completely crazy. A squirrel is a horse, too.

T2: Listen! Not horse. That's a bloody squirrel. Squirrel!!! Squirrel!!!

K Horse!

enthusiastically:

T1: You know what I think: He calls every kind of animal a horse.

T2: I don't think so. But let's try it out.

Look, pick up that worm over there.

T1 picks up worm

T1: Hey look here. That's for you! Take it.

K takes worm, strokes it tenderly.

K : Horse.

*K puts worm back to the ground.*

T2: Have you seen that? He stroked the worm. How disgusting!! What a pig!

**Policeman appears**

T1: Look, Constable Hickel is coming. Let's go, he shouldn't see us.  
*Off they go.*

***Policeman Hickell comes nearer, in circles around Casper, speaks to himself***

***Casper with letter in hand, stands still.***

H: Well, who are **we**, then?

H: We don't talk to anybody, do we?

*taps K on shoulder, takes out his notebook:*

H: Name!

H: Tell me Your name, please!

K: Don't know.

H: What, we don't know our name?

K: Don't know.

H: We are not from here, are we?

K: Don't know.

H: My dear friend, do not talk rubbish to me! You don't know who's talking to you, do you?

*points at himself.*

K smiles: Boy!

H: Boy, don't try to be cheeky with me, you plonker! I tell you who I am. I'm Chief Constable Albert Hickel.

K: Boy!

*K points to the tree.*

K: Horse, horse!

H: What is there? A horse? Seems you had some drinks early this morning? A horse on a tree.

*Some other people are passing by and maid with plastic bag, a lawyer with laptop.*

Maid to Hickel: Hello Constable. who ---- is --- he?

H: Good question, Catherine! I can't tell you. he can only say "don't know" and to me he says "boy" and a blackbird is a horse.

H turns to lawyer: Sir Rupert, you are an advocate and a wise man, perhaps you have some advice.

L: What's the matter with that man?

H: That stranger doesn't tell anything normal, he's only talking rubbish. What shall I do with him, sir? No answer, no information, no documents, no nothing!

M: what is he holding in his hand?

L: maybe these **are** his documents. Let's have a look.

*L takes the letter puts on glasses and reads in a low, fast voice, shakes and nods his head.*

L: A very strange message that. The letter is for Colonel Wessing of the 6th Infantry regiment. He is asked to look after that boy.

H: What shall we do now, the colonel is in Austria at the moment.

M: We cannot leave him alone here in the Square.

H: Take him home with you, Cathy. You've been looking for a man for years.

L: No, you don't. Hickel, take him to the Jail Tower and tell the warden he should care for him till tomorrow. I'll go and inform the mayor.

H salutes: Jail Tower, yes, sir! So come on fellow, let's go!  
*Hickell and Kaspar off.*

Maid (in thoughts): A tragic figure, that stranger. But he's not ugly. He even has some Charisma. Could become a nice handsome young man one day. But what do I know? People like us only get a brutal drunkard as a husband who spends his days in the pubs and then hits his wife and children.

L: Oh come on Cathy. Even you will find a proper man one day. Forget about this weird guy. What would your parents say to him?

M: Sir, you live on the sunny side of the street. You are married to a good wife. You have got four nice children. What do you know? Anyway... that's life! we've got to carry on. Goodbye, sir.

*off she goes.*

L: Goodbye Katherine, give my regards to the professor!

**Scene 4:**  
***Back to present, detectives are still studying their files.***

Det1 So Casper is locked up again.

Det 2 People come and gaze at him.

D1 Some of them try to make him a member of their society.

D2: They tell him what he has to do and not to do.

D1: They torture him by language.

D2: They build him a new prison, a prison of words.

D1: Everybody young and old tell him what a child is told.

D2: Just look at it:  
 The whisperers appear, the whisperers are here

**Scene 5:**  
***in the Jail Tower of Nuremberg where Kaspar is locked up.***  
***Many spectators come to look at the strange boy and give him advice.***

S1 don't be rude to all the people  
do not laugh about a cripple.

S2 keep away from drugs and crime  
always do arrive on time.

S3 early to bed and early to rise  
makes a man healthy wealthy and wise.

S4 in for a penny in for a pound  
money makes the world go round.

S5 all that glitters is not gold  
remember what you have been told.



S6 all good things will come in threes  
and be kind to birds and bees.  
S7 United we stand, divided we fall  
watch out you've got nothing to say, not at all!  
S8 remember it's true what people say:  
an apple a day keeps the doctor away.  
S9 do not pull the door when the label says push  
a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush  
S10 and when you grow up, for sure you will see:  
better alone than in bad company.  
S11 life is hard, there's not much fun  
learn to walk before you run.  
S12 and moreover there's one thing  
learn to speak before you sing.  
S13 and be careful who you meet  
a friend in need is a friend indeed.  
S14 no bees no honey  
no work no money.

*Spectators getting closer to Kaspar and talking into him.*

S1 Show it.  
S2 Know it.  
S3 Read it.  
S4 Need it.  
S5 Take it.  
S6 Make it  
S7 Share it.  
S8 Bear it.  
S9 Say it.  
S10 Lay it.  
S11 Give it.  
S12 Live it.  
S13 Swap it.  
S14 Rob it .  
Kaspar: **STOP IT !!!!**

***Stage goes black.***

***Scene 6***

***Back in today's detectives office***

Detective 1: So do you really think they just wanted to help him?  
D2 Maybe some of them meant it well.  
D1 Maybe some of them hated the way he was, so different.  
People don't like things they don't know, do they?  
D2 This could be one motive. But let's look at what happened at the  
professor's house.

## **Scene 7**

### **Professor teaching Kaspar how to read and write.**

K: I want to be a horseman like my daddy was.  
My daddy was a soldier, my daddy had a horse.

Professor: I want to ride a big wild horse through thunderstorm and fire...  
K: and then through valleys green and deep and mountains higher and higher.

P: I want to be a famous knight, fight battles for my King...

*Professors Maid entering the room.*

K: and to my pretty maid I'll give ....a ...golden ....wedding.... ring!

*Professors Maid and Kaspar giving each other deep looks*

*Students enacting Kaspars confused thoughts*

S1 I ..... want to be a ... horseman like my daddy was.  
S2 I horseman like he wants be.  
S3 My daddy was a horse.  
S4 I like to be my daddy .  
S5 Daddy liked the Horsemen.  
S6 A horse like me.  
S7 I like to be.  
S8 I like to.  
S9 I like.  
S10 I

*The last players are only lifting their faces without voice, then Kaspar appears.*

K: I horse be want man like was Dad, Dad want I man be, to was want be, my horse was like my hat.... My head ... a dead Dad ... a dead horse... want I ... want (loud) **MOOOOTTHHHHER!!**

***Stage goes black.***

***A scream.***

***Noise of dropped knife, steps running away.***

## **Scene 8**

### **Kaspar lies dead on the ground.**

*Detectives approaching Kaspar and circling around him.*

D1 Who murdered him?  
D2 Was it the maid?  
D1 Or was it the professor?  
D2 Was it the crowd?  
D1 Did he kill himself?  
D2 Or are we all to blame?

*D1 puts all files into paperbox, named "still unsolved" and leaves the stage.*

