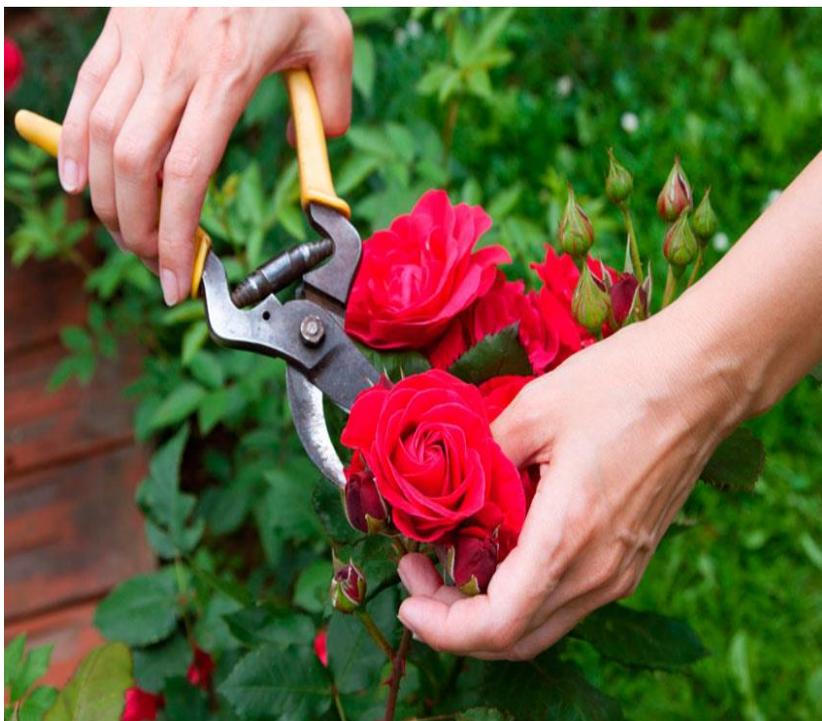


Dead heads and other crime stories

Книга для чтения по учебной дисциплине «Практический курс английского языка» для студентов очной и заочной форм обучения по направлению подготовки 45.03.01 «Филология»

В.Ю. Калюжная, М.В. Кубракова



«Книга»
Луганск – 2017

**МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ И НАУКИ ЛУГАНСКОЙ
НАРОДНОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ
ГОУ ВПО ЛНР «ЛУГАНСКИЙ НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ
УНИВЕРСИТЕТ ИМЕНИ ТАРАСА ШЕВЧЕНКО»**

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**В.Ю. Калюжная,
М.В. Кубракова**

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Содержание

ВВЕДЕНИЕ	4
MURDER	6
“ELEMENTERY MY DEAR WATSON”	10
THE GLOVE. PART I	16
THE GLOVE. PART II	22
THE SPECKELED BAND	27
THE DANCING MEN	45
THE RED HEADED LEAGUE	64
THE DEADHEADS	82
ИСПОЛЬЗОВАННЫЕ ИСТОЧНИКИ	169



Введение

Книга для чтения «Deadheads and other crime stories» по учебной дисциплине «Практический курс английского языка» для студентов очной и заочной форм обучения по направлению подготовки 45.03.01 «Филология» составлена согласно учебной программе Луганского национального университета имени Тараса Шевченко.

Целью книги является формирование у студентов навыков и умений самостоятельного чтения и перевода оригинальных англоязычных текстов, умения быстро находить необходимую информацию, вести беседы с использованием соответствующей терминологии и грамматических структур.

Книга рассчитана на комплексное овладение студентами предлагаемого материала. По окончании работы у студентов должен сформироваться словарный запас общеупотребительной лексики, вокабуляр специальных терминов и словосочетаний. Студенты должны уметь читать и понимать основное содержание иностранного текста; делать устный, прямой и обратный перевод текста; понимать на слух иностранный язык и реагировать в форме монолога, диалога и полилога.

Книга состоит из 6 частей, каждая из которых представляет

собой материал для самостоятельной работы; включает тексты известных английских авторов детективного жанра (Артур Конан Дойл, Риджинальд Хилл). К каждому тексту даются разнообразные упражнения для закрепления и контроля усвоения материала, а также для выполнения содержательных логических заданий.

Книга для чтения составлена логично, последовательность текстов, предлагаемых для изучения, направлена на качественное усвоение оригинального англоязычного материала. Правовая лексика вводится тематично. Эффективность усвоения обеспечивается повторением материала в рамках изучения каждого отдельного текста.

Рациональная и четкая организация работы с предложенным материалом книги будет способствовать не только успешному усвоению специальной лексики, но и повышению мотивации к чтению художественной литературы на английском языке.

MURDER

There was a murder in a flat in central London last week. The body, lying on the floor, was found by the cleaner the following morning. The police were called and arrived soon afterwards. The door had been locked from the inside and the keys were found in the dead man's pocket. There were French windows leading onto a balcony which was shared with the next flat. It was on the first floor, and an agile man could easily have climbed up onto it. There was an office block on the other side of the narrow street.

The man had been hit over the head with something heavy. The time of death was estimated at about 7.30 the previous evening. A photograph of a young girl on a beach was found next to the body. The picture was not very clear, but it might be a clue. The only other interesting thing found was a note written in capitals. It read "EXPECT ME ABOUT 8." The note and the envelope it had obviously been in were on the desk. The writer had been careful to leave no fingerprints on the letter, but there were two sets on the envelope. One belonged to the dead man. The others were checked, but there was no record.

The murdered man, who was called Michael Baines, had only moved in two days before, so the neighbors couldn't be expected to be much help. However, the occupants of all the flats in the block were questioned, and shown copies of the photograph. None of them recognized the girl and none of them knew anything about the dead man. No one had been seen entering the flat since he arrived. No one had been working in the offices opposite after 6 p.m.

When the inspector in charge received all the reports that evening, he suddenly became suspicious of the man who lived next door to Baines. He said that he had been in all evening, but had been watching television and had heard nothing. The inspector sent a policeman round again with a different copy of the photograph. The policeman gave him the photograph to look at again while he quickly inspected the flat. He thanked him and left.

That evening Baines's neighbor was arrested for murder. How did the police know it was him?

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text "Murder":

убийство; тело, лежащее на полу; тело, было найдено уборщицей; была вызвана полиция; окна, выходящие на балкон; первый этаж; подвижный человек; залезть/взобраться; административное здание; ударить по голове; установить время смерти; рядом с телом; она могла послужить доказательством; записка, была написана прописными буквами; отпечатки пальцев; не было данных; переехал на квартиру два дня назад; от соседей нельзя было ждать помощи; опросили жителей квартир; главный инспектор; рапорт/доклад; он внезапно стал подозревать мужчину, живущего по соседству; он был дома весь вечер; другая копия фотографии; был арестован за убийство.

Task 2. Choose the right answer - a, b, c or d:

1. There was a murder in a flat in central London...
a) a year ago; b) on Monday; c) last week; d) the previous night.
2. The body was found ... after the murder.
a) immediately; b) a very long time; c) the following morning;
d) the day.
3. ... had probably locked the door
a) The cleaner; b) The murderer; c) Michael Baines; d) The police.
4. Baines's flat had...
a) its own balcony; b) part of the balcony; c) a balcony which was shared with the next flat; d) no balcony.
5. This balcony...

a) was high up with a good view; b) overlooked the garden;
c) overlooked an office block; d) was on the other side of the street.

6. There was found ... written in capitals.

a) a note; b) a newspaper; c) a piece of paper; d) a pack of cigarettes.

7. The fingerprints were found on...

a) just the envelope; b) the envelope and the letter; c) just the photograph; d) the table.

8. ... gave the police useful information.

a) Nobody; b) Baines's friends; c) The cleaner; d) The murderer.

9. The inspector in charge ... all the reports.

a) threw away; b) received; c) lost; d) read out loud.

10. The inspector in charge became suspicious of the man...

a) who worked in the office block; b) who was on the photograph; c) who came to see him; d) who lived next door to Baines.

11. The neighbors said that he had been ... all the evening.

a) out; b) in; c) at the concert; d) in the restaurant.

12. Baines's neighbor was given ... to look at.

a) a letter; b) the photograph; c) a newspaper; d) the report.

13. ... Baines's neighbor was arrested for murder.

a) In two days; b) Much time later; c) That evening d) Next day.

Task 3. Answer the questions to the text "Murder":

1. What happened in central London last week?

2. Who found the body?

3. Was the police called afterwards?

4. Did the police arrive soon?
5. Had the door been locked from the inside?
6. Where were the keys found?
7. On which floor was the dead man's flat?
8. With what had the man been hit?
9. When was the time of death estimated?
10. What was found next to the body?
11. Where was the note found?
12. What was written in the note?
13. The note was in an envelope, wasn't it?
14. Where were the fingerprints found?
15. Whom did these fingerprints belong to?
16. What was the dead man's name?
17. When did he move in?
18. His neighbors didn't know him well, did they?
19. Were they questioned by the police?
20. Could the neighbors help the police?
21. Why did the inspector become suddenly suspicious?
22. Did the man say that he had been in all the evening?
23. What had he been doing all the evening?
24. Did the police give the man a different copy of the photograph to look in?
26. What did he leave on the photograph?
27. Were his fingerprints the same as on the other side of the envelope?
28. He was arrested for murder that very evening wasn't he?
29. How did the police know who was the murderer?

Solution: The police got the neighbor's fingerprints on the second copy of the photograph. These were the same as the other on the envelope.

“ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR WATSON”

In Devon, a valuable race horse, Silver Blaze, had disappeared; its trainer, John Straker, was found dead.

Silver Blaze was due to run in an important race in a few days' time. On the night he disappeared, a stable boy was guarding him. The boy had a dog with him, and two other boys were sleeping above the stable.

A girl who was taking the boy his supper saw a stranger near the stables. She ran back to the house to get help, and the stranger ran away. The stable boy said that the stranger had asked him if Silver Blaze would really win the race. The boy said he hadn't opened the stable door.

At about midnight, John Straker, the horse's trainer, told his wife he was still worried about the horse. He went out, towards the stables, taking a sharp doctor's knife with him.

The next morning, the stable door was opened. The horse had gone, and the stable boy was unconscious. Opium was found in his food. Usually, you can taste opium, but he had strong curry for supper, and that had hidden the taste.

John Straker was found out on Dartmoor. He was dead, his head crushed. His coat was hanging over a bush. Near him there was his knife, and a scarf which was recognized as the stranger's.

The police found and arrested the stranger, a Mr. Simpson. They said he had drugged the boy, stolen the horse and killed Straker. Simpson denied it all, and they still didn't know where the horse was.

Colonel Ross, the horse's owner, then sent a telegram to Sherlock Holmes, asking him to find the horse. Holmes and his friend, Dr. Watson, were at their flat in Baker Street, in London. They had read the whole story in the newspapers. Holmes took no notice of the telegram, saying that Silver Blaze was obviously loose on Dartmoor, and would soon be found.

Two days later, Holmes realized he was mistaken, and he and Dr. Watson took a train to Tavistock, in Devon. They went to the place on Dartmoor where Straker's body was found. There, Holmes found a match. Then they searched the moor a while, and finally found the tracks of Silver Blaze. Some of the hoof prints were alone, pointing towards Colonel Ross's stables; others had the footprints of a man with them, and pointed towards another stable.

Holmes and Watson talked to the owner there, and he finally admitted that he had seen Silver Blaze loose, taken him home and hidden him. He wanted his own horse to win the race. He said he knew nothing about the murder.

Now, said Dr. Watson, the mystery was over. The police had found the murderer, and they had found the horse. Sherlock Holmes didn't agree. When they went back to Colonel Ross's stables, Holmes asked if there was anything wrong with any animals on the farm. A farm-worker said that three of the sheep had gone lame.

Did the police arrest the right man? When you have thought about it, see what Sherlock Holmes decided.



ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text "Elementary. My Dear Watson":

ценная скаковая лошадь; исчезать; тренер был найден мертвым; участвовать в скачках; конюх сторожил её; конюшня; незнакомец; получить помощь; убежал; выиграет скачки; дверь конюшни была открыта; около полуночи; он беспокоился о лошади; острый нож; конюх был без сознания; был обнаружен опиум; вкус опиума можно почувствовать; на ужин; и это отбило вкус (опиума); его голова была разбита; его пальто висело на кусте; был опознан; полиция арестовала мистера Симпсона; говорили; он подмешал наркотик в пищу конюха; украл лошадь; он все отрицал; владелец

лошади; не обратил никакого внимания на телеграмму; очевидно; Холмс понял, что он ошибся; сел на поезд; они обследовали заболоченный участок и обнаружили следы; следы подков; следы человека; непривязанный; привел лошадь домой; он ничего не знал об убийстве; три овцы захромали; самозащита; сделать лошадь хромой; сделать операцию лошади; спутывать ноги лошади; лошадь испугалась, ударила ногой (лягнула); он поставил деньги на другую лошадь.

Task 2. Choose the right answer - a, b, c:

1. In Devon, a valuable race horse...

a) had disappeared; b) was killed; c) was sold.

2. On the night the horse disappeared a stable boy...

a) was cleaning him; b) was guarding him; c) was teaching him.

3. Near the stables a girl saw...

a) a stranger; b) the trainer of the horse; c) a sportsman.

4. At about midnight, the horse's trainer went towards the stables, taking...

a) a newspaper with him; b) a pistol with him; c) a sharp doctor's knife with him.

5. The next day, the stable door was opened and the horse...

a) had gone; b) was dead; c) was in the stable.

6. John Straker was found...

a) unconscious; b) dead; c) drunk.

7. Near him was the stranger's scarf and...

a) his knife; b) his notebook; c) his cap.

8. The police arrested the stranger, but he...

a) said he had killed the horse; b) denied it all; c) agreed to buy the horse.

9. Sherlock Holmes and his friend Dr. Watson read the whole story in the newspaper and...

a) took the train to Tavistock, in Devon; b) went to the theatre; c) went to the police station.

10. They searched the moor and found the tracks of Silver Blaze pointing...

a) to the east; b) towards Colonel Ross's stables; c) to the church.

11. Colonel Ross was...

a) a teacher of English; b) the murderer; c) the owner of the horse.

12. He had found his horse loose on Dartmoor and..

a) had taken him home and hidden him; b) had killed him; c) had sold him.

13. The horse was taken from the stables by...

a) its trainer John Straker; b) the stable boy; c) the stranger.

14. John Straker wanted to practice an operation...

a) on his dog; b) on his sheep; c) on his horse's leg.

15. He found the stranger's scarf near the stables and decided...

a) to tie the horse's legs with it; b) to present it to his wife; c) to return it to the stranger.

16. He wanted to lame the horse which he trained because...

a) he became mad; b) had bet money on another horse; c) the owner of the horse asked him to do it.

Task 3. Change the words given in brackets from Russian into English:

1. In Devon a (ценная) race horse had disappeared.
2. On the night he disappeared a (конюх) was guarding him.
3. A girl who was taking the boy his supper saw a (незнакомец) near the (конюшня).
4. At about (полночь), John Straker, the horse's (тренер), went out, towards the stables, taking a (острый) doctor's knife.
5. The next morning the horse had gone and John Straker was found (мертвый).
6. Near him was his (нож) and a (шарф) which was recognized as the stranger's.
7. The (полиция) found and arrested the stranger.
8. Holmes and his friend Dr. Watson had read (всю эту историю) in the newspapers.
9. They went to the place and finally found the (следы) of the horse pointing (по направлению к) Colonel Ross's stables.
10. He (в конце концов) admitted that he had seen Silver Blaze loose and had taken him home.
11. Straker wanted to practice an (операция) on the horse's leg.
12. But Silver Blaze (испугалась), kicked back and killed him.
13. Straker wanted (сделать хромой) the horse because he (поставил деньги) on another horse.

Task 4. Answer the questions to the text "Elementary. My Dear Watson":

1. Who had disappeared in Devon?
2. What was the name of the horse?
3. Was Silver Blaze due to run in an important race?
4. Who was guarding him on that night?
5. Whom did the girl see near the stables?
6. The horse's trainer told his wife that he was worried about the horse, didn't he?
7. Where did he go?
8. What did he take with him?
9. Where was John Straker found?

10. Was he dead?
11. What was found near him?
12. Why did the police arrest the stranger?
13. Who sent a telegram to Sherlock Holmes?
14. What did he ask him to do?
15. Did Holmes and Dr. Watson research the moor?
16. What did they find finally?
17. Why did they talk to the owner of the horse?
18. What did he admit?
19. Why did Straker want to practice an operation on the horse's leg?
20. Did the horse become frightened?
21. The horse became frightened and killed Straker, didn't he?
22. Why did Straker want to lame the horse?

Solution: If Simpson, the stranger, had drugged the stable boy, he was very lucky. He couldn't know that there was curry for supper. And how did he put the drug in the food?

The two boys sleeping hadn't woken up. So the dog hadn't barked. So the dog knew the thief.

Who carries a doctor's knife for self-defense? A knife like that is for something difficult — like making a horse lame.

Someone who isn't a doctor would have to practice an operation on a horse's leg — perhaps he would practice on some sheep.

A man who hangs his coat on a bush, and strikes a match, isn't chasing thieves. He's going to do something difficult; like operating on a horse.

The scarf? Straker must have found it near the stables, and decided to tie the horse's legs with it. Silver Blaze became frightened, kicked back, and killed Straker.

Why would Straker want to lame a horse which he trained? Because he had bet money on another horse.

Elementary, my dear Watson!

THE GLOVE

Part I

James Dunne hung by his fingertips from the windowsill and after a moment dropped noiselessly to the ground. He looked about him hurriedly. The house was on the outskirts of the town, well back from the road. It was almost two o'clock and the night was dark. There was little likelihood of his meeting anybody at that time. On the whole he was perfectly secure. As he ran silently across the lawn *he could not help* marveling at his own nerve. He had committed burglaries in those far-off days before he had blossomed forth as a respectable jeweler in the little town of Brampton, but those days were far distant. Behind him lay ten years of law-abiding respectability. The hand that reached up to grasp the top of the wall was as steady as a rock. He could even think calmly of the still thing which had once been Richard Strong and which now lay in an ever-widening crimson pool in the room which he had just left. He had not intended to commit murder, but circumstances had rendered it inevitable. His troubles had begun when an old prison acquaintance had recognized him again. Blackmail followed. Dunne's business was prosperous, but the blackmailer's ever-increasing demands were a drain greater than he could bear.

He tried to supplement his resources by gambling, only to plunge more deeply into the mire, until finally *ruin stared him in the face*. *At his wit's end* he turned to his old trade. Richard Strong was a retired solicitor, with more than a local reputation as a collector of antiques, and he was believed to possess ancient gold ornaments of fabulous value. Dunne at that time was purchasing gold, old rings, brooches and so on, and melting them down; therefore the proceeds of a burglary of Strong's house could be disposed of safely and lucratively. It was an easy matter to break into the house. He knew the room in which the collection was kept, and all that had to be done was to climb a drainpipe for a few feet to reach a window. In Brampton it was not thought necessary to take precautions against burglars. When Dunne had

stuffed his pockets with the gold ornaments, of which there were many in the room, *they held a small fortune.*

He was preparing to go when he heard a gasp behind him; *he swung round to find that the door of the room had opened* and that Strong himself was standing in front of him. ‘Dunne! — it was the only word Strong uttered. Dunne had been glancing at an oriental knife of *curious workmanship.* He still held it in his hand, and almost without thinking, lunged at Strong; all was over. Dunne dragged the body into the room, closed the door, switched off the light, drew back the curtains, and left as he had come, through the window.

He felt no remorse. ‘T could do nothing else,’ he told himself. ‘He recognized me, and it was that or prison.’ He recalled the look of surprise on Strong’s face and actually smiled. He really did not think that he had anything with which to reproach himself. Strong’s death was necessary for his own safety, and there was no alternative to what he had done. ‘In any case, he was an old man with only a few more years to live.’

He felt safe. Who would suspect the dull, middle-aged jeweler of murder and robbery? He had left no clue. He had met nobody, either going or coming. The little main street was deserted and in complete darkness as he let himself into his house by the side-door. He lived alone in the house. His bedroom was at the back, but before switching on the electric light he pulled down the blind and drew the heavy curtains across the window. Then he fumbled in his pocket and pulled out a glove. With a look of surprise he searched the pocket again, and not finding what he sought, plunged his hand into all his other pockets, fumbling amongst the gold articles with which they were filled. The latter he did not take out. For some strange reason he feared to look at them, and he did not intend to empty his pockets of them until he was ready to place them in the crucible in the little room behind the shop downstairs. Finally he abandoned the search and stood in the middle of the room, his face a white mask of sheer horror.

(to be continued)

VOCABULARY

- *he could not help* – он не мог не
- *ruin stared him in the face* – ему угрожало разорение
- *At his wit's end* – Не зная, что делать
- *they held a small fortune* – они составляли целое состояние
- *he swung round to find that the door of the room had opened* – он повернулся и увидел, что дверь комнаты открылась
- *curious workmanship* – изящная работа

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Read and translate the following word-expressions into Russian:

the outskirts of the town; the town of Brampton; a respectable jeweler; far distant days; to intend; to commit murder; troubles; an old prison acquaintance; blackmail; prosperous; ever-increasing demands; ruin stared him in the face; at his wit's end; antiques; ornaments of fabulous value; a burglar; to break into the house; to stuff his pockets; a small fortune; to utter a word; to glance; oriental; curious workmanship; to hear a gasp; to lunge at; to drag the body; to draw back the curtains; to feel remorse; to reproach himself; to feel safe; clew; to pull down the blind; to fumble in the pocket; to search the pocket; to abandon the search.

Task 2. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text "The Glove":

на окраине города; почтенный ювелир; далекие дни; намереваться; совершить убийство; неприятности; старый знакомый по тюрьме; шантаж; процветающее дело; все возрастающие требования; ему угрожало разорение; не знать, что делать; старинные вещи; золотая церковная утварь сказочной ценности; ночная кража со взломом; ворваться в дом; набить карманы; они составляли целое состояние; произнести слово; хрип; нанести удар; тащить тело; задвинуть шторы; чувствовать угрызение совести; упрекать себя; чувствовать

себя в безопасности; оставлять улики; опустить жалюзи; ощупывать карманы; обыскивать свои карманы; прекратить поиск.

Task 3. Choose the right answer - a, b, c:

1. James Dunne lived in...

a) the little town of Brampton; b) on the outskirts of the town; c) in a small village.

2. He was...

a) a policeman; b) a retired solicitor; c) a respectable jeweler.

3. In the far-off days he...

a) committed burglaries; b) possessed ancient gold ornaments; c) was a businessman.

4. His troubles had begun when an old prison acquaintance ... and blackmail followed.

a) had helped him; b) had killed him; c) had recognized him.

5. Finally ruin stared him in the face and he...

a) left the town; b) turned to his old trade; c) started collecting antiques.

6. He intended ... Richard Strong,

a) to rob; b) to kill; c) to surprise.

7. When he broke into the room Mr. Strong was at home and Dunne had...

a) to leave the house; b) to commit murder; c) to ask for a cup of tea.

8. Strong's death was necessary for his own safety and he felt...

a) nothing; b) happy; c) no remorse.

9. When he returned home safely he fumbled in his pocket and...

a) pulled out a glove; b) pulled out a newspaper; c) found there much money.

10. He got terribly frightened when he found...

a) both gloves; b) only one glove; c) much money.

11. His face was a white mask of...

a) horror; b) happiness; c) shame.

Task 4. Answer the questions to the text “The Gove”:

1. In what town did James Dunne live?

2. What was he?

3. Was his business prosperous?

4. What was he before he became a respectable jeweler in the little town of Brampton?

5. Were those days far distant?

6. When did his troubles begin?

7. What followed?

8. The blackmailer’s ever-increasing demands were greater than he could bear, weren’t they?

9. Did ruin stare him in the face?

10. What did he decide to do at his wit’s end?

11. Whom did he intend to rob?

12. Richard Strong was a collector of antiques, wasn’t he?

13. Did he possess ancient gold ornaments of fabulous value?

14. Was it an easy matter to break into his house? Why?

15. What did Dunne stuff his pockets with when he got into the room?

16. Did he intend to commit murder?

17. He had been glancing at an oriental knife of curious workmanship when he heard a gasp behind him, hadn’t he?

18. Did he lunge at Strong without thinking?

19. What did he do with the body?

20. Did he leave as he had come, through the window or through the door?

21. Did Dunne feel any remorse?

22. Why Strong’s death was necessary for him?

23. He felt safe because he had left no clue, didn’t he?

24. How did he get home?
25. What did he pull out of the pockets when he returned home?
26. Why did he get frightened when he found only one glove in his pockets?
27. How did he look like?

THE GLOVE

Part II

The other glove was missing! He had found the gloves in his pocket while in Strong's house and he had taken them out and placed them on a table before stowing away his loot. *He could have sworn* he had replaced them before his hasty departure, but here was the appalling fact that one of them was missing — and on the lining was his name and address! The thought of returning to the house, to the room where Strong lay so quiet and still, filled him with a kind of superstitious horror. The memory of the dead man's upturned face with the queer look of surprise frozen into perpetuity by death returned to him, and he gave a little strangled scream. He stood in the middle of the room, his face white and speckled with drops of perspiration, and his mind a welter of indecision.

"I can't do it", he muttered, "I can't..."

And then the vision of the scaffold intruded itself. In his criminal days he had possessed a morbid dread of the scaffold. The old fear now held him in its grip, *stronger a hundredfold that it had ever been*. With lagging footsteps he went out into the dark deserted street. The journey was like a nightmare. To his disordered imagination every dark corner concealed a spectre, and once he screamed hoarsely at the sight of a discarded piece of wrapping-paper which lay across his path. For a moment it had seemed to him like a corpse lying in a dark pool...

He reached his destination and trembling in every limb he climbed to the window. The room was in darkness as he had left it, but he thought he could perceive a darker object on the floor near the door. He must have light to find the glove, and the switch was near the body. Calling to his aid all the reserves of his will-power he drew the hangings across the window and moved across the room. His feet touched something soft, and he recoiled with a hoarse gasp, his heart pounding

furiously. His shaking fingers found the switch and the room was flooded with light.

Richard Strong lay at his feet. *He would have given the entire world to have been able to keep his gaze averted*, but the body drew his eyes irresistibly. He bent forwards, his hand outstretched to touch the hilt of the knife.

“Put up your hands! Good God! Put up your hands, you scoundrel!”

He looked up with a scream. The door had opened, and Strong’s son stood there, covering him with a revolver. Slowly he raised his arms above his head.

* * *

The inspector who escorted Dunne to the police station was garrulous and, moreover, appeared to have temporarily that, in the eyes of the law, an accused man is innocent until he is proved guilty. At any rate, he assumed Dunne’s guilt, which, considering the evidence is not surprising.

“Do you know,” he said, “that *you are the last man I would have suspected?* If you hadn’t been found in the room with the body and the loot in your pockets *we’d never have thought of you*. Unluckily for you, didn’t get away in time.”

Dunne made no reply. His house was on the way to the police station, and he asked permission to get an overcoat. The air was chilly, in that dark hour before the dawn.

“Certainly,” said the inspector, “but we’ll go with you.” He opened the side door and preceded his prisoner into the hall, two policemen bringing up the rear. Dunne was thinking that *they intended taking no chances*, when his foot touched something on the floor.

He stooped to pick it up and suddenly felt queer. Then the inspector switched on the light. Dunne looked at the article in his hand.

It was the glove which he thought he had left in the room with the murdered man and which he had gone back to find!

“Here,” shouted one of the policemen, “hold up, man!”

But Dunne slipped through his hands and fell to the floor.

VOCABULARY

- *He could have sworn* – Он мог бы поклясться
- *stronger a hundredfold than it had ever been* – во сто раз сильнее, чем раньше
- *He would have given all the world to have been able to keep his gaze averted* – Он отдал бы все на свете за то, чтобы отвести глаза
- *you are the last man I would have suspected* – меньше всего я бы заподозрил вас
- *we'd never have thought of you* – мы никогда бы на вас не подумали
- *they intended taking no chances* – они не собирались рисковать

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Read and translate the following word-expressions into Russian:

to stow away one's loot; hasty departure; the appalling fact; lining; superstitious horror; upturned face; the queer look; perpetuity; strangled scream; his face speckled with drops of perspiration; his mind a welter of indecision; a morbid dread of the scaffold; with lagging footsteps; disordered imagination; to tremble in every limb; to perceive; hangings; to recoil with a hoarse gasp; his heart pounding furiously; shaking fingers; the room was flooded with light; irresistibly; to outstretch; scoundrel; garrulous; an accused; innocent; guilty; evidence; the air was chilly; the dawn; to precede the prisoner; to feel queer; an article.

Task 2. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text "The Glove":

вторая рукавичка исчезла; подкладка; суеверный ужас; темная пустая улица; эшафот; кошмар; он хрипло вскрикнул; ненужный лист оберточной бумаги; тело; темная лужа; место назначения; дрожащие пальцы; выключатель; сила воли; он задвинул портьеры;

руки вверх; целился в него из револьвера; сопровождал; полицейский участок; доказательство; подозревать; награбленное добро; он попросил разрешения; он наступил на что-то; он нагнулся и поднял; инспектор включил свет.

Task 3. Choose the right answer - a, b, c:

1. The other glove ... and on the lining was his name and address.
a) was in his pocket; b) was missing; c) was in the police station.
2. The thought of returning to the house filled him with...
a) a kind of superstitious horror; b) pleasure; c) a kind of suspicion.
3. With lagging footsteps he went out into...
a) the corridor; b) the dark deserted street; c) his wife's room.
4. The journey was like a nightmare and once he screamed hoarsely at the sight of a...
a) cat; b) policeman; c) discarded piece of wrapping-paper.
5. When he reached his destination he drew the hangings across the window and his shaking fingers found...
a) a switch; b) a corpse; c) a ring.
6. The door had opened, and Strong's son stood there,...
a) covering him with a revolver; b) reading a paper; c) speaking to the inspector.
7. His house was on the way to the police station, and he asked permission...
a) to take the other glove; b) to get an overcoat; c) to speak to the inspector.
8. When his foot touched something on the floor he ... to pick it up.
a) jumped; b) sat down; c) stooped.

9. It was the ... which he thought he had left in the room with the murdered man.

a) glove; b) hat; c) loot.

Task 4. End the following sentences due to the text:

1. The other glove...
2. The thought of returning to the house filled him...
3. With lagging footsteps he went out...
4. The journey was like a...
5. He reached his destination and climbed...
6. His shaking fingers found...
7. The door had opened, and Strong's son...
8. His house was on the way to the police station, and he...
9. Dunne was thinking that they intended taking no chances, when his foot.....
10. It was the glove which he.....
11. Dunne slipped through his hands and.....

Task 5. Answer the questions to the text "The Gove":

1. What was missing?
2. Could Dunne have sworn he had replaced gloves before his hasty departure?
3. The thought of returning to the house filled him with a kind of superstitious horror, didn't it?
4. Did he go out into the dark deserted street with lagging footsteps?
5. What was this journey like?
6. What did he do when he reached this destination?
7. Did he draw the hangings across the window?
8. His shaking fingers found the switch, didn't they?
9. Was the room flooded with light?
10. Whom did he see when he switched on the light?
11. Was Strong's son covering him with a revolver?
12. Who escorted Dunne to the police station?
13. Was his house on the way to the police station?
14. What permission did Dunne ask?
15. Did his foot touch anything when he entered his house?
16. What was it?

THE SPECKLED BAND

Part 1



An Early Morning Visitor for Holmes

For many years, I was a good friend of Sherlock Holmes, the famous private detective. During this time, Holmes solved many unusual mysteries but perhaps one of the most unusual was the mystery of the Speckled Band.

The story began in April, 1883. At that time, Holmes and I were sharing an apartment in Baker Street, in London. One morning, I woke up very early. To my surprise, Holmes was standing beside my bed. He was already dressed.

“What’s happened, Holmes?” I asked. “Is there a fire?”

“No, Watson,” replied Holmes. “A client has just arrived. A young lady is waiting downstairs. She seems very worried and upset. I think she has something important to tell me. This could be an interesting case, Watson. That’s why I woke you up”.

“I’ll come at once,” I said.

I was very interested in Holmes’ cases. My friend was a very clever detective. I very much admired his work. So I dressed quickly and went downstairs with Holmes. The Lady was waiting in our sitting room. She was dressed all in black. Over her face she wore a veil.

“Good morning, madam,” said Holmes. “I’m Sherlock Holmes and this is Dr Watson, my friend and helper.” Holmes shut the door and turned to the lady. “You’re shivering, madam,” he said. “You must be cold. Sit near the fire and I’ll get you some hot coffee.”

The lady moved nearer the fire. Then she said, “it isn’t the old which makes me shiver.”

“What is it, then?”

“It’s fear, Mr. Holmes. It’s terror.”

As she spoke, the lady raised her veil. We saw at once that she was very frightened. Her eyes were like the eyes of a terrified animal. She was a young woman, about thirty years old, but her hair was already turning grey with worry.

Holmes looked at the lady carefully. Then he leant forward and touched her arm.

“Don't be afraid,” he said kindly. “I'm sure we can help you. But first, please tell us your story.”

“Mr. Holmes,” said our visitor, “I know I'm in terrible danger. Please tell me what to do!”

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

раскрыть тайну, расстраиваться, беспокоиться, опасность, наклоняться вперед, дрожать, частный детектив, необычный дело, клиент, интересный случай, увлекаться, гость, ужас, прикасаться, вуаль, седые волосы.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Who is:
 - (a) Sherlock Holmes?
 - (b) Dr. Watson?
2. Why did Sherlock Holmes wake up Dr. Watson?
3. Why was the lady shivering?
4. What was unusual about the lady's hair?

Part 2



Miss Stoner Begins Her Story

“I'm listening carefully,” said Holmes. So the lady began her story.

“My name,” she said, “is Helen Stoner. My father was an officer in the Indian army. But he died when I was a baby. After his death, my mother, my sister Julia and I continued to live in India. My sister Julia and I were twins. When Julia and I were only two years old, my mother

married again. She married a man called Dr. Grimesby Roylott. So Dr. Roylott became our stepfather.”

“Tell me about Dr. Roylott,” said Holmes.

“In the past, Dr. Roylott's family was very rich,” said Miss Stoner. “But, as the years went by, they lost all their money. Now Dr. Roylott has only a large, old house and a small piece of land. The house is called Stoke Moran. I'm living at Stoke Moran with Dr. Roylott now. When my stepfather was young, he studied medicine. After he became a doctor, he went to India. That's where he met my mother and later married her. My mother was a rich woman,” went on Miss Stoner. “She had a private income. Every year, she received a sum of about one thousand pounds from her bank. When she married Dr. Roylott, an agreement was made about this money.”

“What was this agreement?” asked Holmes.

“If my mother died,” replied Miss Stoner, “Dr. Roylott would inherit her income. After her death, he would receive one thousand pounds every year. But if my sister or I married, some of the one thousand pounds would go to us instead. We would receive part of the money.”

“I see,” said Holmes.

“After some years, we returned to England from India,” continued Miss Stoner. “But soon after we got back, my mother was killed in an accident. At first, all our neighbors at Stoke Moran were friendly with my stepfather. They were very happy that someone from the Roylott family was living at Stoke Moran again. But my stepfather didn't want to make friends with anyone. Whenever he went out, he quarreled with somebody. He is a very bad-tempered man and gets angry quickly. Soon, all our neighbors were afraid of him.”

“Didn't he have any friends at all?” asked Holmes.

“His only friends were gypsies,” said Miss Stoner. “These gypsies move round the country in bands. Dr. Roylott allows these gypsies to camp on his land. Dr. Roylott is also very fond of Indian animals. Two of these - a cheetah and a baboon were sent to him from India. They run around freely over his land. Everyone is terrified of these dangerous animals. So Julia and I became more and more

unhappy,” went on Miss Stoner. “No servants wanted to live at Stoke Moran so we had to do all the work. When Julia died . . .”

“Your sister is dead, then?” asked Holmes. At once, he became very interested. “Yes,” said Miss Stoner. “She was to be married. The date had been fixed for the wedding. But two weeks before her wedding day, Julia died.”

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

близнецы, пожениться, определить дату, отчим, опасные животные, цыгане, павиан, участок земли, разрешать, несчастный случай, лагерь, злой, изучать медицину, доход, договор, наследовать, получить часть денег, вернуться, убивать, ссориться, соседи, позволять, гепард, пугать, слуга, свадьба.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. What was Helen Stoner's sister's first name?
2. When the two young girls were only two years old, what did their mother do?
3. Where did Dr. Roylott live?
4. When Mrs. Roylott died, what would happen to her money?
5. What happened to Mrs. Roylott?
6. Who were Dr. Roylott 's only friends?
7. What kind of animals did Dr. Roylott have?
8. What happened two weeks before Julia's wedding?

Part 3



The Death of Julia

Holmes leant forward excitedly.

“Tell me exactly what happened,” he said.

“On the night of Julia's death,” said Miss Stoner, “my stepfather went to his room early. Julia and I were sitting together in my bedroom. We talked until about eleven o'clock. Then Julia went to bed. All the bedrooms at Stoke Moran are in the same part of the house. They're all next to each other, on the ground floor. The door of each bedroom opens into the same corridor. The windows look out onto the garden. But there are no doors or windows from one bedroom to the next.”

“I understand,” said Holmes.

“As Julia was leaving my room that evening, she asked a strange question.”

“Tell me, Helen,” she said, “have you ever heard anyone whistle in the middle of the night?”

“No,” I said, in surprise. “Why?”

“Because, during the past few nights,” replied Julia, “I have heard a strange whistle. It's very low and clear. But I don't know where it comes from.”

“Remember,” I said, “some gypsies are camping near the house. Perhaps it was one of them whistling at night.”

“You're probably right,” Julia replied. “Anyway, it doesn't matter. Goodnight.” She smiled at me and closed my door.”

“Did you and Julia always lock your doors at night?” asked Holmes.

“Yes,” replied Miss Stoner. “We were afraid of the cheetah and the baboon. They're dangerous animals. We didn't feel safe unless our doors and windows were locked.”

“Of course,” said Holmes. “Please go on.”

“That night, there was a terrible storm,” continued Miss Stoner. “The wind was howling and the rain was beating on the window. I couldn't sleep. Suddenly I heard a dreadful scream. I knew it was Julia. I jumped out of bed and ran into the corridor. As I opened my door, I thought I heard a noise. It was a low, clear whistle. Then I heard another sound. The second sound was like metal clanging against metal. I saw that my sister's door was open. I stared at it in horror. Suddenly Julia appeared. She was standing in the doorway. Her face was white with terror. Her eyes were staring wildly. She was swaying from side to side, like a drunk person. Then she fell on the floor. Her body moved like

someone in terrible pain. 'Suddenly she screamed these words: "Oh, my God! Helen! It was the band! The speckled band!" Then she fainted. At that moment, my stepfather came out of his room. He ran down the corridor to help Julia. But there was nothing he could do. My stepfather went to the village to bring another doctor. But before he returned, poor Julia was dead.'

"How was your sister dressed?" asked Holmes.

"She was wearing her nightdress. In one hand, she was holding a box of matches and, in the other, a burnt match."

"So she had lit a match to see around her," said Holmes. "That could be important. Was the cause of her death ever discovered?"

"No," replied Miss Stoner. "Nobody could find out how she died. Her body was not marked in any way. The doors and windows of Julia's room were locked. The chimney was built so that no one could climb down into the fireplace from the roof. Nobody could get in or out of her room. So Julia must have been alone in her bedroom."

"But what about her strange words - 'The speckled band?'" asked Holmes. "What do you think she meant?"

"I don't know," said Miss Stoner. "But perhaps she meant a band of people. Gypsies were camping near the house. Many of these gypsies wear handkerchiefs on their heads. These handkerchiefs have a design of spots or speckles. So perhaps Julia was trying to describe the band of gypsies."

Holmes looked doubtful. "Please go on," he said.

"Julia died two years ago," said Miss Stoner. "Since her death, I've been very lonely. But recently, a dear friend of mine asked me to marry him. We're getting married very soon. But two days ago, some builders arrived at Stoke Moran. The builders started to knock a hole through my bedroom wall. So I had to move out of my room and into Julia's room. I've been sleeping in her bed."

Miss Stoner stopped for a few moments. Then she said, «Mr. Holmes, last night, I heard a terrible sound."

"What was that?" I asked.

"It was a whistle, Dr Watson. A low, clear whistle. The same sound Julia heard for several nights before she died!"

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

взволнованный, первый этаж, выйти из комнаты, свист, несколько ночей, полночь, страшный крик, пронзительно кричать, странный вопрос, платочек, звук, камин, ночная рубашка, иметь в виду, пестрая лента, описывать, сомнительный, прибыть, двигаться.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Describe the position of the three bedrooms at Stoke Moran.
2. One night, Julia asked Helen a strange question.
 - (a) What was the question?
 - (b) What did Helen suggest might be the answer to Julia's question?
3. Why did Julia and Helen always lock their doors at night?
4. When Helen Stoner heard her sister scream, she ran into the corridor. What two strange noises did she hear?
5. What words did Julia cry out before she fainted?
6. How did Holmes know that Julia had lit a match to see round her?
7. Why was it certain that Julia was alone in her bedroom?
8. What was Helen Stoner's explanation of Julia's strange words?
9. Two strange things had happened at Stoke Moran.
 - (a) Why did Helen have to move out of her bedroom?
 - (b) Which bedroom did she move into?
 - (c) What strange noise did she hear last night?

Part 4



A Dangerous Enemy

Holmes and I looked at each other in astonishment.

“What did you do?” asked Holmes.

“I jumped out of bed and looked around me,” replied Miss Stoner. “But it was dark and I couldn't see anything. At daylight, I went

to the station and caught a train to London. I knew I had to see you, Mr. Holmes. You are the only man who can help me.”

“But I can only help you if you tell me everything,” said Holmes, “you have not told me everything, Miss Stoner.”

“What do you mean?” asked Miss Stoner, in surprise.

Holmes did not answer. He took hold of Miss Stoner's arm and pushed back her sleeve. I saw five red marks on her arm. They were the marks of four fingers and a thumb. Somebody had held Miss Stoner's arm tightly.

“Your stepfather has hurt you badly,” said Holmes. Miss Stoner's face became red.

“Dr Roylott is a very strong man,” she said. “He doesn't know how strong he is.”

Holmes stared into the fire without speaking. I knew he was thinking hard.

“I need some more information,” he said at last. “But we must move quickly. I want to go to Stoke Moran today and examine the bedrooms there. But your stepfather must not know about my visit.”

“Dr Roylott has important business in London today,” said Miss Stoner. “He'll be away from home all day.”

“Excellent!” cried Holmes. “Will you come with me, Watson?”

“Of course,” I replied.

“Then, Miss Stoner, we'll arrive at Stoke Moran early this afternoon”.

“I must go now,” said Miss Stoner. “But I feel much happier, now that I have told you about my troubles. Goodbye.” She pulled her veil over her face and left the room.

Holmes leant back in his chair.

“Well, Watson,” he said, “this matter is very strange.”

“I don't understand it,” I said. “Helen Stoner's sister, Julia, was alone in her bedroom. Nobody could get in or out. So how did she die?”

“And what about the whistle in the night?” said Holmes. “And the dying woman's words about the "speckled band"?”

“I don't know,” I said. “Perhaps the band of gypsies . . .”

Suddenly the door of our room was thrown open and a man appeared. He was so large that his body almost filled the doorway. His face was red and his eyes were cruel.

The man stared at Holmes. Then he looked at me.

“Which of you is Holmes?” he asked rudely.

“That's my name,” answered my friend quietly.

“Well, I'm Dr. Grimesby Roylott of Stoke Moran,” said the man. “I know my stepdaughter's been here. I followed her. What has she been saying to you?”

Holmes was not afraid of the large man. He was not going to tell Dr. Roylott anything about Helen Stoner's visit. So he said politely, “The weather is a little cold just now, isn't it?”

“Answer my question!” shouted Dr. Roylott angrily. “What has my stepdaughter been saying to you? I've heard about you, Holmes. You're a busybody. You interfere in other people's lives. Well, keep out of my life. I'm a dangerous man. Look!”

A poker was lying beside the fire. It was made of iron and was very heavy. Dr. Roylott stepped forward and picked it up. He bent the poker with his huge hands. Then he threw it back into the fireplace.

“I'm warning you, Holmes. Keep out of my life!” he said again. Then he left the room.

Holmes began to laugh. “Well,” he said, “perhaps I'm not as large as Dr. Roylott. But I'm just as strong.”

As he spoke, Holmes picked up the poker and pulled it straight again.

“Now,” said Holmes, “let's have some breakfast, Watson. Then I have some business to do. I need more information.”

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

опасный враг, удивление, рукав, красные следы, большой палец (руки), кочерга, огромные руки, вежливый, причинить вред,

сильный человек, внимательно смотреть, осмотреть, важное дело, появляться, грубый, падчерица, бросать, вмешиваться, предупреждать.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. What marks did Holmes notice on Helen Stoner's arm?
2. Why did Holmes want to visit Stoke Moran?
3. What did Dr. Roylott tell Holmes to do?
4. Why did Dr. Roylott bend the poker?
5. How did Holmes show that he was as strong as Dr. Roylott?

Part 5



A Visit to Stoke Moran

It was nearly one o'clock before Holmes returned. He looked excited.

"I've been to Mrs. Roylott's lawyer," he said. "I've seen her will. This is what she wanted to happen to her money after her death.

"After her death, Dr. Roylott inherited all of his wife's income. But if Julia and Helen Stoner married, they would receive a large part of the income instead."

"So Dr. Roylott would lose a lot of money," I said.

"Exactly," said Holmes. "But now, Watson, we must hurry. And, please, bring your gun with you."

We caught a train to Leatherhead, the nearest town to Stoke Moran. Then we drove along the country lanes to Dr. Roylott's house. It was a beautiful spring day.

Soon we saw a large house through the trees.

"That's Stoke Moran," said our driver, pointing at the house. "The quickest way to get there is through the fields. See, where that lady is."

We saw a lady walking towards us. It was Helen Stoner. We paid the driver and he set off back to Leatherhead. Miss Stoner hurried forward to meet us.

“We have plenty of time,” she said. “Dr. Roylott won't return from London until this evening.”

“We've already met your stepfather,” said Holmes. He told Miss Stoner about Dr. Roylott's visit. Miss Stoner's face went white.

“So he followed me,” she said. “I'll never be safe from him.”

“Come,” said Holmes. “Let's examine the bedrooms.”

We walked across the fields to the house. We saw that work was being done on one wall of the house. This was the wall of Miss Stoner's bedroom.

“This is strange,” said Holmes. “I can't see why this work is necessary.”

“No,” said Miss Stoner. “I am sure that the work is not necessary. It is an excuse to get me to move from my room.”

“Well,” said Holmes, “I want to examine the room you're sleeping in now — your sister Julia's room.”

The room was small, with a low ceiling and a wide fireplace. There was some old furniture in the room — a bed, a table and two chairs. Holmes examined everything carefully.

Suddenly he pointed to a long rope which hung down by the bed. The end of this rope touched the pillow. The rope looked like a bell rope for calling a servant. If the person in bed wanted something, they could pull the rope. The rope would be attached to a bell in another part of the house. The bell would ring and a servant would come.

“That bell rope looks very new,” Holmes remarked.

“Yes,” replied Miss Stoner. “It was put in only two years ago.”

Holmes pulled the bell-rope. We waited. But nothing happened. We could not hear a bell ringing anywhere in the house.

“Look,” said Holmes suddenly. “This isn't a real bell-rope. It doesn't go anywhere. It's attached to a hook on the ceiling.”

We all stared up at the ceiling. Holmes was right. Then I noticed something else. Near the top of the bell-rope was a tiny opening in the wall. It looked like a small ventilator. Holmes saw the ventilator too.

“That's strange,” he said. “Air usually comes into a room from *outside*, through a ventilator. But this ventilator connects two rooms inside. I wonder why?”

“I don't know,” said Miss Stoner. “But the bell-rope and the ventilator were put in at the same time.”

“That's very interesting,” said Holmes. “A bell-rope which doesn't ring a bell and a ventilator which doesn't ventilate. They are both false. And now, Miss Stoner, I'd like to examine your stepfather's room.”

We went into Dr. Roylott's room next door. There were a few pieces of furniture in the room and some books. In the middle of the floor stood a large iron safe. The safe was locked. Holmes knocked on the walls of the safe.

“What's in here?” he asked.

“My stepfather's business papers,” replied Miss Stoner.

“There isn't a cat inside?”

“A cat!” said Miss Stoner, in surprise. “No. What a strange idea.”

“Well, look,” said Holmes. He pointed to a small saucer of milk on top of the safe.

“We don't have a cat,” said Miss Stoner. “But there is the cheetah. A cheetah is just a big cat.”

“Yes, of course,” said Holmes. “But here's something else.”

A short stick was lying on top of the bed. A thin rope was attached to this stick. One end of the rope had been tied into a noose. I looked at the noose. I wondered what it was for.

“Well,” said Holmes. “I think I've seen enough.”

We walked out into the garden. Holmes looked very serious.

“Miss Stoner”, he said at last, “Dr. Watson and I must wait in your room tonight”.

Miss Stoner and I looked at each other in astonishment.

“Yes,” said Holmes. “Your life is in great danger.”

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

завещание, терять деньги, огнестрельное оружие, узкая дорога, спешить, низкий потолок, длинная веревка, мебель, крюк, петля, палка, веревка для звонка, вентилятор, фальшивый, железный сейф, блюдец молока, пол.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. How did Holmes and Watson get to Dr. Roylott's house?
Who was the first person they saw when they arrived?
2. What did Holmes think was very unusual about:
 - (a) the work being done to Helen's bedroom?
 - (b) the bell rope in Julia's bedroom?
 - (c) the ventilator?
3. Why did Holmes ask if there was a cat in the safe?
4. What was strange about the stick lying on the bed?
5. Where did Holmes want to wait that night?

Part 6



Dr. Roylott Returns

“This is my plan, Miss Stoner,” said Holmes. “Listen carefully. When Dr. Roylott returns, go into Julia’s room, but don’t go to bed. Wait until you hear Dr. Roylott go to bed. Then put a lamp in the window. Then go to your own room. You must stay there all night.

“Dr. Watson and I will be watching the house. The lamp in the window will be a signal for us. When we see the lamp, we’ll come.”

“But where will you be?” asked Miss Stoner.

Holmes pointed to a building through the trees.

“Is that a village inn?” he asked.

“Yes,” said Miss Stoner.

“Then Dr. Watson and I will wait at the village inn,” said Holmes. “We can watch your bedroom window from there. Goodbye, Miss Stoner, and don’t be afraid.”

Holmes and I went to the inn. We paid for a room on the first floor. From our room, we could see Stoke Moran.

As it was getting dark, a horse and a carriage came along the road. I saw Dr. Roylott sitting in the carriage. The carriage went through the big iron gates at Stoke Moran. Then it drove on, up to the house.

“Watson,” said Holmes, “we may be in great danger tonight.”

“Why do you think we may be in great danger?” I asked. “What did you see in those rooms?”

“You remember the bell-rope and the ventilator?”

“Yes,” I said. “But I don’t understand why they are important.”

“Both the bell-rope and the ventilator were put into the room two years ago,” said Holmes. “But they are false. They don’t work. And something else happened two years ago. Julia Stoner died.”

“Yes,” I said. “But I still don’t see ...”

“Did you notice anything unusual about the bed, Watson?” asked Holmes.

“No.”

“The bed was fixed to the floor. It cannot be moved. It must always stay in the same position – next to the bell-rope and under the ventilator.”

“Holmes!” I cried. “I’m beginning to understand. The person in the bed cannot escape some terrible danger.”

“Dr. Roylott is a very clever man,” said Holmes. “We’re just in time to prevent a horrible crime.”

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

вернуться, следить, гостиница (снльская), экипаж, железные ворота, помечать, убежать, предотвратить, страшное преступление, случаться, сигнал, одно и то же положение.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. What did Holmes ask Helen Stoner to do when she heard Dr. Roylott go to bed?

2. What would Holmes and Watson do when they saw the lamp in the bedroom window?
3. Holmes told Watson that they might be in great danger that night.
 - (a) What was unusual about the bell rope?
 - (b) What was unusual about the ventilator?
 - (c) What was unusual about the bed?

Part 7



Night of Terror

About eleven o'clock, we saw a light. It was the lamp shining from the bedroom window.

Holmes jumped up excitedly.

“That’s our signal, Watson,” he said. “Come on!”

We hurried along the road. The yellow light was still shining from the bedroom window. We went into the garden of Stoke Moran and walked towards the house.

Suddenly a dark shape ran in front of us. It was like a child with very long arms. But it was not a child. I felt very afraid.

«What was that, Holmes?” I asked.

Holmes laughed quietly.

“It was one of Dr. Roylott’s animals,” he said. “That was the baboon.”

We reached the house and climbed through the window, into Julia’s bedroom. Holmes closed the window. Then he whispered in my ear.

“We must put out the light, Watson. Dr. Roylott might see the light through the ventilator.”

I took my gun out of my pocket and put it on the table. Holmes had brought a long, thin stick with him. He put this stick on the bed. He put a box of matches beside the stick. I put out the lamp and we waited.

I shall never forget that terrible night. We were in complete darkness and we knew we mustn’t make a sound. We heard the bell in the village clock. It struck midnight, then one o’clock, two o’clock, three o’clock . . . Still we waited.

Suddenly I saw a light shining through the ventilator. Somebody in Dr. Roylott's room had lit a lamp. I heard someone moving about quietly. Then everything was silent again. Another half hour passed.

Then I heard a strange noise – a very soft, hissing noise. The noise was near us in the room. Holmes jumped up and lit a match. Immediately, I heard a low, clear whistle.

Suddenly Holmes began hitting the bell-rope with his stick. By the light of the match, I saw his face. It was full of horror.

“Do you see it, Watson?” he shouted.

But I saw nothing. Holmes stopped hitting the bell-rope and gazed up at the ventilator.

Suddenly we heard a dreadful cry — a cry of pain and terror. I felt cold and sick with fear.

“What was that cry?” I whispered.

“It means that everything is over,” said Holmes. “Bring your gun and let's go into Dr. Roylott's room.”

Holmes lit the lamp. Then I followed him down the corridor to Dr. Roylott's room. We knocked twice on the door, but there was no reply. We pushed the door open and entered the room.

A terrible sight met our eyes. Dr. Roylott was sitting beside his safe. The door of the safe was open. The short stick with the noose lay across Dr. Roylott's knees.

Dr. Roylott was dead. His eyes were staring upwards in terror. There was something strange round his head. It was bright yellow, with brown speckles.

“The band,” whispered Holmes. “The speckled band!”

I stepped forward. Immediately the strange band began to move.

“It's a snake,” I cried in horror.

Quickly Holmes grabbed the stick with the noose on the end. He caught the snake's head in the noose. Then he threw the snake into the iron safe and closed the door. The metal door clanged shut.

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

светиться, перелезть через окно, внезапно схватить, шептать, карман, тонкий прут, коробка спичек, полночь, всматриваться, шипеть, страх, стучать в дверь, змея, резкий металлический звук.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. What frightened Dr. Watson in the garden at Stoke Moran?
2. Why would Dr. Watson never forget that night?
3. What strange noise did Watson hear?
4. What did Holmes do when he heard the noise?
5. What was the 'speckled band'?

Part 8



The Speckled Band

Next morning, we took Helen Stoner away from Stoke Moran. The poor girl was very upset by what had happened. We took her to an aunt's house in London. She would stay there until her wedding.

We also told the police about Dr. Roylott's death. Then we returned to our apartment in Baker Street.

"Tell me something, Holmes," I said. "How did you know the 'speckled band' was a snake?"

"Well," said Holmes, "when I examined Julia Stoner's bedroom, I saw the bell-rope and the ventilator. I saw they were both false. Then I noticed the bed was fixed to the floor.

"And I realized that something could pass through the ventilator. It could travel down the bell-rope and land on the bed. Immediately, I thought of a snake.

"Dr. Roylott had other strange animals from India. It would be easy for him to have a snake as well."

“So he kept it in his safe and fed it with milk. And every night he put the snake through the ventilator. It went into his stepdaughter's room and came down the rope. He knew that one night it would bite the girl in the bed.”

“How did he make the snake come back to him?” I asked.

“Dr. Roylott's signal to the snake was a whistle,” replied Holmes. “When the snake heard the whistle, it returned to its master. Julia and Helen Stoner also heard this whistle.”

“On the night her sister died,” I said, “Helen Stoner heard the sound of metal clanging against metal.”

“That was the safe door clanging shut,” said Holmes.

“So when you heard the hissing noise in the room last night,” I said, “you knew it was the snake.”

“Yes. So, I hit it with my stick and it went back through the ventilator. But the blows from my stick also made it angry. That's why it bit Dr. Roylott.”

“Dr. Roylott wanted his stepdaughters' money,” I said. “He killed Julia Stoner and he tried to kill her sister, Helen, too. But his plans went wrong. The snake finally killed its master.”

“Exactly,” said Holmes. “And I don't feel very sorry for him.”

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

кормить, хазяин, ударить, шипящий звук, удар, дразнить, ужалить, пытаться убить, волноваться, спускаться.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. How did the snake come from the next door bedroom?
2. How did Dr. Roylott make the snake come back to him?
3. What was the loud, clanging noise which Helen had heard?
4. Why was Holmes not sorry for Dr Roylott?

THE DANCING MEN

Part 1



A Strange Drawing

One morning, Sherlock Holmes handed me a sheet of paper.

“Look, Watson,” he said. “Can you explain this problem?”

I looked at the paper. To my surprise, it was covered with a line of strange pictures. These pictures looked like little dancing men.

“A child must have drawn these,” I said. “Where did you get this piece of paper, Holmes?”

“It arrived by post this morning,” answered Holmes. “A man called Hilton Cubitt, of Ridling Thorpe Manor in Norfolk, sent it to me. Mr Cubitt is coming to see me today.”

“There's a ring at the doorbell, Watson. Perhaps that's Mr Cubitt now.”

A moment later, a tall gentleman entered the room. He had a handsome face with clear blue eyes and looked very strong and healthy.

This gentleman shook hands with both of us. Suddenly he caught sight of the strange drawings.

“Here's a mystery, Mr. Holmes,” he said. “What do you think of these drawings?”

“They look like children's drawings,” replied Holmes. “But why do you think they are important?”

“I don't, Mr. Holmes. But these drawings are making my wife very frightened. That's why I have come to see you. I want to find out what they mean.”

Holmes held up the paper, so that the sunlight shone through it. It was a page torn from a notebook and the markings on it looked like this:

...

Holmes examined the paper carefully. Then he folded it up and put it in his pocket.

“This is a most interesting and unusual case, Mr. Cubitt,” he said. “Please tell us your story from the beginning.”

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

лист бумаги, объяснять, танцующие человечики, составлять, рисунок, дверной звонок, красивое лицо, просунуть руку, жена, отрывать, пугать, записная книжка.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Why had Hilton Cubitt come to see Sherlock Holmes?
2. Mr. Cubitt showed Holmes some strange drawings. What did they look like?

Part 2

Mr. Cubitt's Story

“I'm not very good at telling stories,” said Mr. Cubitt. “But first, I want to explain something. I'm not rich, but I come from a very old and well known family. My family has lived at Ridling Thorpe Manor, in Norfolk, for nearly five hundred years. Last year, while I was visiting London, I met an American lady called Elsie Patrick. Elsie and I became friends and soon fell in love. I didn't know anything about Elsie's family or her past life. But I decided to ask her to marry me.

The day before our wedding, Elsie spoke to me. “I've had some very sad things happen to me in my past life, Hilton. I've done nothing wrong, but I wish to forget my past. Please promise me you will never ask me anything about it. If you are unable to make this promise, then please go back to Norfolk and leave me.”

“So I promised Elsie I would never ask her anything about her past life. We've been married for a year now and we've been very happy. During all this time, I've kept my promise. But one day, about a month ago, my wife received a letter from America — I saw the American

stamp. She read the letter and her face turned white. Then she threw the letter in the fire.

She said nothing, but from that time, there's been a look of fear on her face.

"Mr. Holmes, my wife is a very good woman. I'm sure she has not done anything wrong in her past life.

"But Elsie knows I am very proud of my family. My family's long history is very important to me. She would never do anything to upset me. Perhaps that's the reason she's afraid to tell me her troubles."

"Please go on," said Holmes.

"Well," continued Mr. Cubitt, "yesterday morning, a strange thing happened. I found this piece of paper lying on the sundial in the garden. At first, I thought it was a child's drawing.

"But when I showed the paper to Elsie, she fainted. Since then, she has seemed like someone in a dream, and there is terror in her eyes.

"I didn't know what to do. If I took the paper to the police, they would laugh at me. So I came to you. Mr. Holmes, please help me. I'm not rich, but I'll spend all my money to protect my wife from danger."

"I was sorry for Mr. Cubitt. He was a good man and I saw that he loved his wife very much.

Holmes did not speak for some time.

"Mr. Cubitt, don't you think," he said at last, "you should ask your wife to tell you everything."

"But I promised Elsie I would never ask her about her past," replied Hilton Cubitt. "If she wants to tell me something, she will. But I will not ask her to tell me."

"I'll be pleased to help you," said Holmes. "I believe there is a meaning in the pictures of the dancing men. But I need more information before I can say what it is."

"Go back to Norfolk. If there are any more pictures of dancing men, make a copy of them for me. If anything important happens, I'll come to Norfolk at once."

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

решать, значение, обещать, прошлая жизнь, гордиться, солнечные часы, быть неспособным, получить письмо, почтовая марка, причина, потерять сознание, защищать, сделать копию, придерживаться обещания.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. How long has Mr. Cubitt's family lived at Ridling Thorpe Manor?
2. Mr. Cubitt made a promise to his wife before they got married.
 - (a) What was the promise?
 - (b) Had Mr. Cubitt kept his promise?
3. What happened when Mrs. Cubitt received a letter from America?
4. Why would Mrs. Cubitt never do anything to upset her husband?
5. Mr. Cubitt found a piece of paper on the sundial in the garden.
 - (a) What was on the paper?
 - (b) What happened when he showed the paper to his wife?
6. Why did Mr. Cubitt not want to go to the police?
7. What did Holmes ask Mr. Cubitt to do?

Part 3

Mr. Cubitt's Second Visit

During the next few days, Holmes was very quiet. Several times he looked at the paper with the dancing figures on it.

Then one afternoon, about a fortnight later, we had another visit from Mr. Cubitt. He seemed worried and tired.

“My wife hasn’t told me anything yet, Mr. Holmes,” he said.

“But I have more pictures of dancing men and — more important — I’ve seen the man who draws them. But I’ll tell you everything that has happened. The morning after I visited you, I found

another line of dancing men. They were drawn with chalk on the toolhouse which stands in the garden, near the house. I made this copy.”

Hilton Cubitt unfolded a paper and laid it on the table.

“Excellent!” cried Holmes. “Please go on.”

“After I’d made the copy,” continued Mr. Cubitt, “I cleaned off the marks. But two days later, another drawing appeared. Here it is:...

Holmes was delighted.

“We’re beginning to get a lot of information,” he said.

“I decided to find out who was drawing these pictures,” went on Hilton Cubitt. “So the next night, I took my gun and sat beside a window which looks out onto the garden. At about two o’clock in the morning, my wife came into the room. She was wearing her night clothes. She asked me to come to bed. But I refused.

“No, Elsie,” I said. “I want to see who is drawing these pictures.”

“Suddenly I saw Elsie’s face turn very white in the moonlight. She was looking out of the window. I looked out of the window, too. I saw something moving near the toolhouse. A dark figure came slowly round the corner of the toolhouse and stopped beside the door. Immediately, I picked up my gun. I wanted to run out of the house, but my wife caught me in her arms and held me back. By the time I got outside, the man was gone. On the toolhouse door was the same drawing I copied before:

‘I looked everywhere, but I couldn’t find the man. However, in the morning, when I looked at the toolhouse door again, I saw a second line of dancing men. This new line is very short, but I made a copy and here it is.’”

Hilton Cubitt gave another piece of paper to Holmes.

I could see that Holmes was very excited.

“Tell me,” he said, ‘was this second line of figures separate from the first?’”

“It was on a different part of the door.”

“Excellent!” cried Holmes. “This last drawing is very important. It makes me feel hopeful. Please continue your interesting story.”

“I’ve nothing more to say,” replied Hilton Cubitt, “except, I was angry with Elsie for holding me back. I’m sure she knows who this man

is and what these pictures mean. Now I must go back to Norfolk. Elsie is very frightened and I don't want to leave her alone at night.”

“Well,” said Holmes, “please leave these pictures with me. I will examine them carefully. I think I'll be able to solve the mystery soon.”

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

танцующие фигуры, две недели, раскрыть тайну, уставший, дом для инструментов, развернуть бумагу, прекрасно, восхищаться, быть одетой, отказываться, лунный свет, сдерживать.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. About a fortnight later, Mr. Cubitt came back to see Sherlock Holmes.
 - (a) What did he bring with him?
 - (b) What else had he seen?
2. Mr. Cubitt had his gun in his hand and started to run out of the house.
 - (a) What did he want to do?
 - (b) What did his wife do?
3. Hilton Cubitt was sure that his wife knew more about the mystery than she had told him. What else did he think she knew?
4. How did Sherlock Holmes think he could solve the mystery?

Part 4

Terrible News

As soon as Hilton Cubitt left the room, Holmes ran to a table. He put all the papers with pictures of dancing men on the table. He began to examine them carefully.

For the next two hours, Holmes worked hard examining the papers. At last, he jumped up excitedly. Then he sat down again wrote out a long telegram.

“As soon as we get an answer to this telegram, Watson,” he said, “we'll visit Mr. Cubitt in Norfolk. I have some important information for him.”

I was very curious about the telegram. I very much wanted to know what Holmes had found out about the meaning of the dancing men. But I didn't ask any questions. I knew Holmes would tell me when he was ready.

Two days passed. Then on the evening of the second day, Holmes received another letter from Hilton Cubitt.

In this letter, Mr. Cubitt said he had found a new drawing of dancing men. He had found the drawing that morning, on the sundial in the garden. Mr. Cubitt had made a copy of the drawing in his letter:

Holmes examined these pictures carefully. Suddenly he jumped up.

“We must go to Norfolk at once, Watson,” he said.

At that moment, a telegram arrived for Holmes. It was the answer he had been waiting for. Holmes read the telegram and his face looked serious.

“Mr. Cubitt is in terrible danger,” he said. He needs our help.”

But, unfortunately, we were not able to go to Norfolk that evening. It was late and the last train had gone. The next train was not until the morning. In the morning, we travelled to Norfolk. At the station, we asked our way to Ridling Thorpe Manor.

“Are you the detectives from London?” the stationmaster asked.

“Why do you think we are detectives from London?” asked Holmes in surprise.

“Because the Norfolk police are already on their way to Ridling Thorpe Manor,” said the stationmaster. “But perhaps you are doctors? The lady isn't dead yet. You may be in time to save her life.”

Holmes looked very worried.

“What do you mean?” he asked. “What has happened at Ridling Thorpe Manor?”

“It's terrible news,” replied the stationmaster. “Both Mr. Hilton Cubitt and his wife have been shot. Mr. Cubitt is dead and his wife is seriously injured.”

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

заинтересованный, миновать, начальник станции, серьезно пострадать, стрелять, удивляться, найти, спасти, страшные новости.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. What did Holmes do after studying the pictures of the dancing men?
2. What made Holmes sure that Hilton Cubitt was in great danger?
3. Why were Holmes and Watson not able to go to Ridling Thorpe Manor that evening?
4. What terrible news did the stationmaster give Holmes and Watson?

Part 5

The Investigation Begins

At once, Holmes hurried to a carriage. During the journey to Ridling Thorpe Manor, he did not speak at all. But I could see he was very worried.

Holmes had known that Hilton Cubitt was in danger. But he had not arrived in time to save his client.

At last, we could see a large, old house through the trees. This was Ridling Thorpe Manor. As we came near the front door, I saw the toolhouse and the sundial in the garden. These were the places where Hilton Cubitt had found pictures of dancing men.

A carriage was standing outside the front door and a small man was getting out. This man introduced himself as Inspector Martin of the Norfolk police. Holmes introduced himself to Inspector Martin.

Inspector Martin was very surprised when he heard my friend's name.

“But, Mr. Holmes,” he said, “the crime was committed only a few hours ago, at three o'clock this morning! How did you get here from London so quickly?”

“When I left London, I didn't know a crime had been committed,” replied Holmes. “I was on my way here to prevent a crime. But I've arrived too late.

“Now, Inspector Martin, shall we work together on this investigation? Or do you want to work alone?”

“I'd be very pleased to work with you,” replied the inspector.

“Good,” said Holmes. “Then let's try to find out what happened.”

At that moment, the doctor, an old, white-haired man, came downstairs from Mrs. Cubitt's room. The doctor said the lady was very badly injured, but that she would not die.

The bullet which wounded Mrs. Cubitt had gone into her brain. The gun which fired the bullet had been very close to her. Hilton Cubitt had been shot through the heart.

A gun had been found lying halfway between the two bodies. Two shots had been fired from the gun. But we did not know if Mrs. Cubitt had shot her husband first, and then shot herself. Or if Mr. Cubitt had shot his wife, and then killed himself.

“Has Mr. Cubitt's body been moved?” asked Holmes.

“No,” replied the doctor. “We had to move the lady. We couldn't leave her lying injured on the floor.”

“Who found the body?”

“Two of the servants,” said the doctor.

“Then let's hear their story,” said Holmes.

The two women told their story very clearly. They had been awakened from their sleep by a loud noise. A minute later, they heard another noise. Both women ran downstairs from their rooms. The door of a downstairs room was open and Mr. Cubitt lay dead on the floor.

Near the window, his wife was sitting with her head against the wall. One side of her face was red with blood. The window was shut and the room was full of smoke and the smell of gunpowder.

Immediately, the two servants sent for the doctor. When he arrived, they carried Mrs. Cubitt upstairs. The servants did not understand why the crime had been committed. Mr. and Mrs. Cubitt had been in love with each other and had never quarreled.

“Tell me,” said Holmes, “when did you first notice the smell of gunpowder?”

“When we ran out of our rooms upstairs,” replied the women.

“Good,” said Holmes. “Now let’s examine the room downstairs.”

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

расследование, запах пороха, совершать преступление, представиться, предупредить преступление, пуля, ранить, муж, мозг, пробуждать, кровь, сильный шум, вниз, вверх, ссориться.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Why was Inspector Martin surprised at the arrival of Holmes and Watson?
2. What had happened to:
 - (a) Hilton Cubitt?
 - (b) Mrs Cubitt?
3. How many shots had been fired from the gun lying between the two bodies?
4. When did the servants first notice the smell of gunpowder?

Part 6

Holmes Sends a Note

The room was small, with a window looking onto the garden. Mr. Cubitt's body lay on the floor.

"You can take away the body now," said Holmes. Then he turned to the doctor. "Have you found the bullet which injured Mrs. Cubitt?" he asked.

"No," replied the doctor. "The bullet is still somewhere in her brain. We will have to operate to remove the bullet."

"We know that two bullets were fired from the gun," said Inspector Martin. "And we know where each bullet went. One bullet killed Mr. Cubitt and the other injured his wife."

"Yes," said Holmes, "but what about the third bullet — the bullet which passed through the window frame?"

He turned suddenly and pointed to a hole in the bottom of the window frame. This hole was the exact shape and size of a bullet.

"Wonderful!" cried Inspector Martin. "Then three shots were fired, not two. A third person was in the room. But, Mr. Holmes, how did you know a bullet had passed through the window frame?"

"Well," said Holmes, "you remember that the two servants smelt gunpowder as soon as they left their rooms?"

"Yes," said the Inspector, "but I still don't understand."

"The servants' rooms are upstairs. But the gun was fired *downstairs*. So the smell of the gunpowder must have been blown from this room to the rooms upstairs. Therefore the window must have been open. A third person could have stood outside the window and fired through it. If somebody inside the room fired at this person and missed, the bullet would pass through the window frame."

"I understand," said Inspector Martin. "But when the servants entered this room, they said the window was shut."

"That was because Mrs. Cubitt had just shut it," replied Holmes. "But what's this?"

A lady's handbag was standing on a small table. I saw it was full of money. The money was tied together. We counted twenty fifty-pound notes.

"This money is important evidence," said Holmes. "And now let's find out where the third bullet went, after it passed through the window frame."

We all went outside into the garden. There were flowers planted underneath the window. The flowers were broken and there were large footprints on the ground.

Holmes searched in the grass. Suddenly he bent forward and picked something up. It was the missing bullet.

"I think, Inspector," he said, "that our case is nearly solved."

"But, Mr. Holmes," said the Inspector, "who was this other Person and how did he get away?"

"I will tell you later," said Holmes. "First, I want to know if there is a place near here called Elrige's?"

We asked the servants, but none of them had ever heard the name. Then the boy who worked with the horses remembered a farm with that name. This farm was a very lonely place, many miles away, near a village called East Rushton.

Holmes thought for a moment, then he smiled strangely.

"Bring a horse," he said to the boy. "I want you to take a message to Elrige's Farm."

Then Holmes took from his pocket all the papers with the pictures of the dancing men on them. He sat down at a table and worked carefully. Finally, he handed a note to the boy.

"Give this note to the person whose name is written on the outside," said Holmes. "And don't answer any questions."

I looked at the outside of the note. It was addressed, in large writing, to:

Mr. *Abe Slaney*,
Elrige's Farm,
East Rushton,
Norfolk

Then Holmes turned to Inspector Martin.

“I think you should get more policemen,” he said. “We'll have to catch a dangerous criminal.”

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

оконная рама, важное доказательство, женская сумка, под окном, опасный преступник, отпечаток ноги, обыскивать, пустынное место.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Why was Holmes sure that:
 - (a) more than two shots had been fired?
 - (b) the window had been open?
2. Where could a third person have stood?
3. Who did Holmes say had shut the window?
4. What did they find in the lady's handbag?
5. What did Holmes find in the grass outside the window?
6. Holmes sat down and wrote a note. Who was this note addressed to?

Part 7

Holmes Explains the Mystery

After the boy had left, Holmes gave some instructions to the servants.

“If anybody comes and asks for Mrs. Cubitt,” he said, “do not tell the person that she is ill. Show the person straight into the sitting room. There are some things I want to explain,” Holmes said. Then he told the Inspector about Hilton Cubitt's visits to us in London and the pictures of the dancing men.

“These drawings are a kind of secret writing,” said Holmes. “They look like children's drawings, but they are messages. Each picture

of a dancing man is a letter of the alphabet. Let me show you how it works.

The letter of the alphabet which appears most often in English is "E". The picture of the dancing man which appeared most often was ... So I knew that this picture was "E".

Some of the dancing men were holding flags. I guessed that a figure with a flag was the last letter of a word."

"But how did you find out what the other pictures meant?" I asked.

"On Hilton Cubitt's second visit," went on Holmes, "he brought three different messages with him. The last message was: ...

"In this message, there was no flag. So the message had to be one, single word. What could it be? The word had five letters, and the second and fourth letters were "E". It might be "Sever" or "LEVER" or "NEVER". But the most probable of these words was "NEVER". So I knew the pictures ..., and ... were "N", "V" and "R"."

"Excellent, Holmes!" I cried. "What did you do next?"

"Well," said Holmes, "I knew Mrs. Cubitt's first name was Elsie. I noticed that there was another word which had five letters and began and ended with "E".

"So I guessed that ..., ... and ... probably were "L", "S" and "I".

"In one message, the word "ELSIE" was written twice. In this message, the word before "ELSIE" had four letters and ended with "E". I guessed the writer was asking Elsie to do something. So now I looked for an English word of four letters ending in "E". The best word I could think of was "COME".

"So now I knew that ..., ... and ... were "C", "O" and "M". Then I looked again at the first message which Hilton Cubitt brought us:

...

"I used the figures holding flags to divide the message into words. I wrote out the message, putting dots for the letters I didn't know.

M .ERE ..E SL.NE.

"The first missing letter had to be "A" and the second letter had to be "H".

AM HERE A.E SLANE.

“Clearly, the two missing letters were part of somebody's name.
So it must be:

AM HERE ABE SLANEY

“Then I looked at the second message again: ...

“This message worked out like this: A. ELRI.ES

“Here, I worked out that the missing letters could be "T" and
"G".

AT ELRIGES

“I decided to find out if there was a place near Ridling Thorpe Manor that was called Elrige's. If there was, then I knew that this was where the writer of the messages was staying.”

Inspector Martin and I looked at Holmes. It was wonderful how my friend had found out the meaning of the dancing men.

“What did you do then, Mr. Holmes?” asked the Inspector.

“I guessed that Abe Slaney was an American. Abe" is an American name and Mrs. Cubitt had recently received a letter from America. This letter had upset her very much. So I sent a telegram to a friend in the New York Police, asking about Abe Slaney. This was the reply:

THE MOST DANGEROUS CROOK IN CHICAGO

“The same evening, I received Hilton Cubitt's final message.

The message worked out like this:

ELSIE . RE.ARE TO MEET THY GO.

Clearly, the missing letters had to be "P" and "D".

ELSIE PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD

“I knew the Cubitts were in terrible danger. Abe Slaney was saying he was going to kill Mrs. Cubitt. So Dr. Watson and I hurried immediately to Norfolk, but, unfortunately, we were too late. Hilton Cubitt was dead.”

“But what about Abe Slaney, Mr. Holmes?” asked Inspector Martin. “If he is the murderer and he's at Elrige's, he may escape.”

“Don't worry,” said Holmes. “He won't escape. He's coming here.”

“Here?” said Inspector Martin, in surprise. “Why should he come here?”

“Because I have written and asked him to come here.”

Holmes stood up and walked to the window. "Look, here he is!"

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

буква, держать флаги, сообщение, ответ, недавно.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

- Holmes explained the meaning of the drawings.
 - What did each figure stand for?
 - What was the meaning of the figures which were holding flags?
- After studying the drawings of the dancing men carefully, Holmes found a name and address.
 - What was the name?
 - What was the address?
- Holmes had sent a telegram to America.
 - Who had Holmes sent the telegram to?
 - What had he asked in the telegram?
 - What reply had he received?
- What was the meaning of the final message?
- Inspector Martin was worried that the criminal might escape. Why was Holmes not worried?

Part 8

The Murderer is Caught

Aman was coming up the path. He was tall and handsome, with a large, black beard. The front doorbell rang loudly.

"Hide behind the door," said Holmes quietly. "This man is very dangerous and we must be careful."

We waited in silence for a minute. Then the sitting room door opened and the man stepped into the room. At once, Holmes put a gun against his head and Inspector Martin put handcuffs on his wrists. The man looked at us. His black eyes looked angry.

“I received a note from Mrs. Cubitt,” he said. “Where is she?”

“Mrs. Cubitt is badly injured,” replied Holmes. “Her life is in great danger.”

The man cried out. He sat down on a chair and put his face in his hands.

“I didn't know she was injured,” he said. “I shot her husband when he tried to kill me. But I would never injure Elsie. I love her more than anything in the world.”

Suddenly the man looked up.

“Wait,” he said. “If Elsie is badly injured, who wrote this?”

He opened his hands and threw a note onto the table.

“I wrote it, to make you come here,” said Holmes.

“You wrote it? But how could you know the meaning of the dancing men?”

“I worked out what the figures meant,” replied Holmes. “But now, tell us your story.”

“All right,” said the man. “If Elsie dies, it doesn't matter what happens to me.

My name is Abe Slaney and I've known Elsie since she was a child. Her father was head of a gang of crooks in Chicago and I was a member of the gang. Elsie's father thought of the secret writing of the dancing men. The members of the gang used it to send messages to one another. Elsie and I were engaged to be married. But Elsie hated her father's business and she didn't want to be married to a criminal. So she ran away to England. She met and married this Englishman, Hilton Cubitt.

I wrote to Elsie, but she didn't answer my letters. In the end, I came to England and stayed at Elrige's Farm. I knew Elsie understood the pictures of the dancing men. So I left messages where she would see them. In the messages, I asked her to come away with me. But her only answer was "Never".

Then Elsie wrote me a letter. She said she would meet me at three o'clock in the morning, when her husband was asleep. She brought money with her. She offered me the money and asked me to go away. I became angry and tried to pull her through the window. Just then, her husband rushed in, carrying a gun. He fired the gun at me and missed. At the same moment, I shot at him and he fell down dead. I ran across the garden. As I ran, I heard the window shut behind me.

I have told you the truth, gentlemen. I didn't know Elsie was hurt. She must have shot herself after I left."

While Abe Slaney was talking, a carriage arrived with two policemen in it. Inspector Martin turned to his prisoner.

"It's time for us to go, Slaney. Goodbye, Mr. Holmes. I hope I'll work with you again one day."

As the carriage drove away, I saw the note which Abe Slaney had thrown on the table. This was what Holmes had written:

...

"If you work it out, Watson," said Holmes, "you'll find it means: 'Come here at once'. I knew Abe Slaney would come when he read the note. He would think Mrs. Cubitt had written it."

"Well," I said, "criminals have used the dancing men to help them in their crimes. But now the dancing men have been used to catch a criminal."

"Yes," said Holmes. "The dancing men have finally done some good.'

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

черная борода, поймать преступника, наручники, мошенник, члены банды, предлагать деньги, нанести ущерб, промахнуться, заключенный.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. The sitting room door opened and a man stepped in.
 - (a) What did Holmes do?
 - (b) What did Inspector Martin do?
2. What was Abe Slaney's reason for killing Hilton Cubitt?
3. Why did Abe Slaney not believe that Mrs Cubitt was badly injured?
4. Why had Elsie run away from America?
5. What was the reason for the large amount of money in the handbag?
6. Why did Holmes say that the dancing men had finally done some good?

THE RED HEADED LEAGUE

Part 1

A Strange Advertisement

After my marriage, I lived with my wife in another part of London. My friend, Sherlock Holmes, continued to live in his apartment in Baker Street.

One day, in the autumn of 1890, I decided to visit my friend. But when I arrived at his apartment, I found he already had a visitor.

This visitor was an old man. He was fat, with a red face. But the most unusual thing about him was his hair. The color of the old man's hair was bright red.

"I'm sorry, Holmes," I said. "I didn't know you were busy. I'll wait in the next room."

But Holmes didn't want me to leave. He pulled me into the room and closed the door.

"This is my friend, Dr Watson," he said to the old man. "Dr. Watson has helped me with many cases. Perhaps he can also help me with yours."

"I'm very interested in your cases, Holmes," I said.

"This is Mr. Jabez Wilson," went on Holmes. The old man nodded to me. "Mr. Wilson has come to me with a very unusual story. It's the most interesting problem I've heard for a long time. Mr. Wilson, could you please tell your story again from the beginning. I'd like Dr. Watson to hear it."

Mr. Wilson pulled an old newspaper out of his pocket. He opened the paper on his knees and turned to the advertisement page. He ran his finger down the advertisements and pointed to one of them.

"Here," he said. "This is how everything began. Read it for yourself, Dr. Watson."

I took the newspaper from Mr. Wilson. It was *The Morning Chronicle* and was two months old. I read the advertisement:

THE RED HEADED LEAGUE:

Another vacancy is open for someone wishing to become a member of the League. Salary — four pounds

*a week. All red-headed men, over 21 years old,
should come on Monday at 11 a.m. to this address:
Duncan Ross, The Red Headed League,
7 Pope's Court, Fleet Street, London.*

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

объявление, брак, кивать головой, газета, вакансия, рыжеволосый, оплата, член лиги.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. When Dr. Watson visited Holmes, there was another visitor. What was unusual about this visitor?
2. Mr. Wilson showed Watson an advertisement in a newspaper.
 - (a) Where was there a vacancy?
 - (b) How much was the salary?
 - (c) What kind of men should apply?
 - (d) Where should they apply?

Part 2

The Red-Headed League

“What a strange advertisement,” I said. “Whatever can it mean?”

Holmes laughed.

“It's very unusual, isn't it,” he said. “And now, Mr. Wilson, tell us your story.”

“Well,” began Mr. Wilson, “I have a small shop in Saxe-Coburg Square, in the City of London. But business hasn't been good for some time and I don't make much money any more. I used to have two

assistants, but now I only pay one. My assistant is very interested in learning the business. So he's willing to work for half pay."

"That's very unusual," said Holmes. "What's the name of your assistant?"

"Vincent Spaulding," replied Mr. Wilson. "He's an excellent assistant, but he does do one unusual thing. Spaulding's very interested in photography and takes a lot of photographs. He develops these photographs himself, in the cellar of my shop. When he isn't working, he spends all his time down there."

«Go on," said Holmes.

"We live very quietly," continued Mr. Wilson. "I don't go out very much. And I don't read the newspapers. One day, eight weeks ago, Spaulding came to me with a newspaper in his hand. It was the same newspaper that I showed you, Dr Watson."

"Mr. Wilson," said Spaulding, "I wish I were a red headed man."

"Why?" I asked in surprise."

"Well, here's another vacancy in The Red Headed League," replied Spaulding.

"The Red headed League?" I asked. "What's that?"

"Spaulding looked at me and laughed.

"Haven't you ever heard of The Red Headed League?" he said. "You could become a member and make a lot of money."

"Well, when I heard that," said Mr. Wilson, "at once I became very interested. I needed more money. So I asked Spaulding to tell me more about this Red-Headed League.

"I think," said Spaulding, "the League was started by an American called Ezekiah Hopkins. Ezekiah Hopkins was a very rich man and enjoyed doing unusual things.

"Hopkins was red headed himself and liked all other red-headed men. So when he died, he left his money in his will to help red-headed men. The money was used to start The Red Headed League. When a man became a member, he would be paid an excellent salary for very little work.

“And now,” said Spaulding, showing me the advertisement again, here's another vacancy in the League. Why don't you go to Pope's Court, Mr. Wilson? I'm sure you could become a member!”

“Now as you see, gentlemen,” continued Mr. Wilson, “the color of my hair is bright red. So I thought I could easily become a member of this Red Headed League.

“Vincent Spaulding seemed to know a lot about the League. So I asked him to come with me to the address in the advertisement.

“We closed the shop for the day and set off for Pope's Court, Fleet Street.”

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

помощник, подвал, получать удовольствие.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Where was Mr Wilson's shop?
2. Who was Vincent Spaulding?
3. There were some unusual things about Vincent Spaulding.
 - (a) How much was he willing to work for?
 - (b) What was he very interested in?
 - (c) Where did he go when he wasn't working?
4. Vincent Spaulding told Mr. Wilson that he wished he was a redheaded man. Why?
5. What did Vincent Spaulding tell Mr. Wilson which made him very interested in The Red Headed League?
6. Why did Mr. Wilson think it would be easy for him to become a member of The Red-Headed League?

Part 3

An Unusual Job

Holmes rubbed his hands together and smiled.

“Your story is very interesting, Mr. Wilson,” he said. “Please go on.”

“When we arrived in Fleet Street,” said Mr. Wilson, “we saw a strange thing. The whole street was full of red-headed men. They had all come to answer the advertisement.

“When I saw how many men were waiting, I wanted to go home. But Spaulding wouldn't let me. He pushed and pulled me through the crowd. At last, we reached the stairs leading up to the office in Pope's Court.

“A small man was sitting behind a table. The color of this man's hair was a brighter red than my own.

“This is Mr. Jabez Wilson,” said my assistant. “He has come about the vacancy in the League.”

“The small man looked carefully at my hair. He looked at it for such a long time, that I began to feel uncomfortable. Suddenly he bent forward and grabbed my hair with both hands. He pulled at it until I cried out in pain.

“I'm sorry I hurt you,” said the man. “Your hair is a wonderful color. But I had to make sure you weren't wearing a wig. I had to find out if your hair was real.”

“Then he went over to the window. He opened it and shouted down to the men below that the vacancy was taken. The red-headed men groaned with disappointment. Then they began to walk away. In a few minutes, the square was empty.

“My name,” said the small man “is Duncan Ross. You are now a member of The Red Headed League. When can you start the job?”

“Well, that's going to be difficult,” I replied. “I have a business already.”

“Oh, don't worry about that, Mr. Wilson!” cried Spaulding. “I can look after the business for you.”

“Now I knew that my assistant was a good worker and would look after my business well. So I asked Duncan Ross, ‘What are the hours of work?’”

“Every day, between the hours of ten o'clock and two o'clock,” replied Mr. Ross. “The pay is four pounds a week. But you must not leave the office at any time between ten and two. If you leave for any reason, you'll lose your pay.”

“I understand,” I said. “And what is the work?”

“Copying out the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. The first book of it is over there. Will you be able to start work tomorrow?”

“Certainly,” I said.

“Then goodbye, Mr. Wilson. I hope you enjoy your work.”

“I went home with Vincent Spaulding. I was very pleased. It was an easy job to copy out the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and the pay was excellent.

“Next morning, when I arrived at the office, Duncan Ross was waiting for me. I started copying out the *Encyclopaedia*, beginning with subjects under the letter 'A'. Sometimes Mr. Ross left the room, but he kept coming back to see me.

“At two o'clock, he told me I had worked well. He was very pleased. Then I left and he locked the office door behind me.

“The same thing happened every day for eight weeks. Every morning, I began work at ten, and every afternoon, I left at two. Every Saturday, I was given four pounds for my week's work.

“At first, Mr. Ross came into the office to watch me work. But after a time, he stopped coming. However, I was afraid to leave the office. I didn't want to lose my pay.

“But suddenly everything came to an end.”

“To an end?” asked Holmes.

“Yes. This morning, I went to work as usual at ten o'clock. But the door was locked and on it was this card.”

Mr. Wilson held up a small piece of white card. This is what it said:

THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE IS FINISHED

9th October 1890

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

необычная работа, потирать руки, толпа, лестница, внезапно схватить, парик, кричать, стонать, разочарование, энциклопедия, конечно, терять деньги.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. What did Mr. Wilson see in Fleet Street that was so very strange?
2. What was strange about the small man sitting behind the table?
3. Why did the small man pull Mr. Wilson's hair?
4. Duncan Ross offered Mr. Wilson the job.
 - (a) Who was willing to look after Mr. Wilson's shop?
 - (b) What were the hours of work?
 - (c) What was Mr. Wilson to do?
 - (d) Do you think this was an unusual job? Why?
5. Why was Mr. Wilson frightened to leave the office during the hours of work?
6. How did Mr. Wilson learn that the job had ended?

Part 4

Who is Vincent Spaulding?

Holmes and I looked at the piece of white card. Then we looked at Mr. Wilson's face. He looked very disappointed and upset. But there was also something rather funny about The Red-Headed League. Suddenly we both began to laugh.

“I don't think this is funny!” cried Mr. Wilson angrily. “Perhaps I should take my case somewhere else.”

“No, no,” said Holmes. “Your case is most interesting and unusual. What did you do when you found the card on the door?”

“I was extremely surprised,” replied Mr. Wilson. “I didn't know what to do. I went to all the offices in the building. I asked if anyone knew anything about The Red-Headed League. But no one had ever heard of Duncan Ross.

“At last, I went home to Saxe-Coburg Square. I told Vincent Spaulding what had happened. Spaulding said that if I waited, perhaps the League would write to me. Perhaps they would explain everything in a letter.

“But I didn't want to wait. I've lost a good salary of four pounds a week. I want to find out about this League and why they did this to me.

“Mr. Holmes, I've heard you help people when they are in trouble. That's why I've come to you.”

“You've done the right thing,” said Holmes. “I'll be happy to help you, Mr. Wilson. But first, I want to ask you some questions.

“Your assistant — Vincent Spaulding — how long had he been with you before he saw the advertisement?”

“About a month.”

“How did he get the job as your assistant?”

“I advertised the vacancy for an assistant. He came for the job. I chose him because he looked a good worker. Also, he said that he would work for half-pay.”

“What does Spaulding look like?”

“He's small and he moves very quickly. He's about thirty years old and has a white mark on his forehead.”

Holmes sat up straight in his chair. He was very excited.

“Tell me,” he said, “is there anything unusual about Vincent Spaulding's ears?”

“Yes,” replied Mr. Wilson. “They have holes in them for earrings. He told me a gypsy did this when he was a boy.”

Holmes sat back in his chair. He was thinking carefully. I guessed Holmes already knew something about Vincent Spaulding.

“Is Spaulding still working for you?” asked Holmes. “Yes,” said Mr. Wilson. “I've left him at the shop.”

“Good. Mr. Wilson, I need a couple of days to investigate this case. I hope to solve the mystery by Monday.”

After Mr. Wilson had left Holmes turned to me.

“Well, Watson,” he said, “what do you think about all this?”

“I can't understand it,” I said. “It's most unusual.”

“I need to think,” said Holmes. “Please don't speak to me for at least fifty minutes. I'm going to smoke my pipe.”

Holmes sat back in his chair. He put his black pipe between his lips, lit it and closed his eyes. Time passed. I thought Holmes had fallen asleep.

But suddenly Holmes jumped out of his chair and put his pipe down on the table.

“Watson,” he said, “we're going to visit Saxe-Coburg Square. Come quickly!”

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

половинная оплата, трубка, сережка, лицо, несколько дней, внезапно, забавный.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Why did Holmes and Watson begin to laugh?
2. Mr. Wilson told Spaulding that the job had ended. What did Spaulding suggest Mr. Watson should do?
3. Holmes asked Mr. Wilson to describe Spaulding.
 - (a) What was unusual about Spaulding's forehead?
 - (b) What was unusual about Spaulding's ears?
4. 'Watson. Come quickly!' Holmes said to Watson. Where were they going?'

Part 5

A Visit to Saxe-Coburg Square

We soon arrived in Saxe-Coburg Square, the place where Mr. Wilson had his shop.

Saxe-Coburg Square was in a poor part of London. It was a small and quiet square. On each side of the square stood a line of old houses. In the middle of the square was a small garden with grass.

Sherlock Holmes stopped outside one of the houses on the corner of the square. On the wall of this house, there was a brown notice, with the words 'Jabez Wilson', in white letters.

Holmes walked up and down and examined all the houses, carefully. Then, he returned to Mr. Wilson's house. Suddenly, he hit the pavement outside the house with his stick. Then he went up to the house and knocked on the door. Immediately, it was opened by a young man. This was Mr. Wilson's assistant, Vincent Spaulding.

"Excuse me," said Holmes, "can you please tell me the way to the Strand?"

"Go down the third street on the right," answered the assistant quickly. Then he closed the door.

"That's a very clever young man," said Holmes, as we walked away. 'I know something about him. I believe he's the fourth cleverest man in London.'

"It is clear," I said, "that Mr. Wilson's assistant plays an important part in the mystery of The Red-Headed League. Did you ask the way to the Strand in order to get a look at him?"

"No," said Holmes, "but I wanted to look at the knees of his trousers."

"The knees of his trousers!" I cried in astonishment. "Well then, Holmes, why did you hit the pavement?"

"Watson," said Holmes, 'we haven't time to talk now. We've seen the front of Saxe-Coburg Square. Let's now investigate the street at the back.'

We went round the corner and walked to the street at the back of Mr. Wilson's shop. We were immediately in one of the busiest and most

important streets in the City of London. A line of expensive shops and important businesses were on the side of the road. Hundreds of people were hurrying along the pavements and the roadway was busy with traffic. It was hard to believe that Saxe-Coburg Square, with its poor, old houses, was immediately behind the important buildings of this busy street. Holmes looked along the line of buildings.

“This is very interesting, Watson,” said Holmes. “There's a tobacconist's, a newspaper shop, a restaurant and — ah yes, the offices of the City and Suburban Bank!”

I could see that Holmes was very excited.

“Well, Watson, I have some work to do that will take a few hours,” went on Holmes. “This case at Saxe-Coburg Square is serious.”

“Serious!” I said. “Why?”

“An important crime has been planned. I think we'll be in time to stop it. But I'll need your help tonight.”

“At what time?”

“Ten o'clock.”

“Then I'll be at your apartment at ten.”

“Good. And, Watson — there may be some danger, so please bring your gun with you.”

I said goodbye and went home. I thought about everything that had happened. It was a very strange case and I did not understand what was happening. Where were we going that evening? What were we going to do? Why did I have to bring my gun? And who was Vincent Spaulding? There was only one thing to do. I had to wait until the evening. Then perhaps I would get the answers to these questions.

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

тротуар, немедленно, брюки, дорогой магазин, спешить, транспорт, пригородный банк, серьезное дело, сегодня вечером.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. What did Holmes do to the pavement outside Mr. Wilson's house in Saxe-Coburg Square?
2. Watson asked Holmes if he had knocked at the door of Mr. Wilson's house so that he could have a look at Vincent Spaulding. What was Holmes' reply?
3. What was the difference between the houses in Saxe-Coburg Square and the houses in the street behind the Square?
4. Holmes saw a building in the street behind Saxe-Coburg Square which made him very excited. What building was it?
5. Holmes told Watson that he needed his help.
 - (a) When was Watson to come to Holmes' apartment?
 - (b) What was Watson to bring with him?

Part 6

Everything is Ready

At quarter past nine that evening, I set off for Baker Street, where Holmes lived. When I arrived, I noticed two carriages standing outside Holmes' door. Inside his apartment, Holmes was talking with two men. One of them was Peter Jones, a police detective. The other man was tall and thin, with a sad looking face.

“Hello, Watson,” said Holmes. “I think you already know Mr. Jones, of Scotland Yard? Let me introduce Mr. Merryweather. Mr. Merryweather is also coming with us tonight.”

“I hope it's important,” said Mr. Merryweather sadly. “I usually play cards with friends on Saturday evenings. I have played cards every Saturday night for the last twenty-seven years.”

“I think,” said Sherlock Holmes, “that tonight you'll play a more exciting game than cards. You, Mr. Merryweather, may lose thirty thousand pounds. You, Jones, may win the prize of a criminal you want to catch.”

“The criminal John Clay, murderer and thief,” said Jones. ‘He's a young man, but he's a very clever criminal. I want to catch him more than any criminal in London.’”

“It's time to go now,” said Holmes. “Two carriages are waiting. You two take the first carriage and Watson and I will follow in the second.”

The carriages went quickly through the dark streets. I wondered where we were going.

“We're nearly there,” Holmes said to me, at last. ‘This man, Merryweather, is a bank manager. I wanted Jones to come with us, too. He's a good man. He's not very clever, but he is very brave. Ah, here we are.’

We were in the same busy street which Holmes and I had visited earlier in the day. We got out of the carriages and Mr. Merryweather took us down to a small side door. Through the door was a corridor with an iron gate at the end. Mr. Merryweather opened this gate and stopped to light a lantern. Then he took us down some steps and through another gate. At last, we were in a large cellar. This cellar was full of large boxes.

Holmes took out his *magnifying glass* and went down on his knees to the floor. He examined the stones on the floor, then he jumped up and put the glass back in his pocket.

“We have about an hour,’ he said. ‘The criminals will wait until Mr. Wilson is in bed. Then they'll move quickly.’

“Watson, we're in the cellar of one of the most important banks in London. Mr. Merryweather is the manager of this bank. He'll explain why the criminals are interested in this cellar at the moment.”

“About two months ago,” whispered Mr. Merryweather, ‘the bank received a huge amount of gold from the Bank of France. But we never used the money. It's still lying in boxes in this cellar.’

“I understand,” I said.

“Well,” said Holmes, ‘let's make our plans. Mr. Merryweather, you must put out the lantern. But first we must decide where to stand. These men are dangerous and we must move carefully.’

‘I want you all to hide behind these boxes. When I shine my light on the men, attack them. If they fire a gun, Watson, shoot back at once.’

“I hid behind a wooden box and put my gun on the top. Merryweather put out the lantern and we were in complete darkness.”

“They have only one way of escape,” whispered Holmes. “That's back through Wilson's shop, into Saxe-Coburg Square. Have you done what I asked you, Jones?”

“Three police officers are waiting at the front door of Wilson's shop,” replied Jones.

“Excellent! Then everything is ready. And now, we must be silent and wait.”

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

экипаж, сегодня вечером, поймать преступника, вор, фонарь, лупа, полная темнота, шептать.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Who was:

(a) Peter Jones?

(b) Mr Merryweather?

2. 'Tonight you'll play a more exciting game than cards,' said Holmes to Mr. Merryweather.

(a) What might Mr. Merryweather lose?

(b) What might Jones win?

3. Mr. Merryweather told Watson why the criminals were interested in the cellar of the bank. What was the reason?

4. Why were three policemen waiting at the front door of Wilson's shop?

Part 7

The Capture of John Clay

More than an hour went by. My arms and legs were tired, but I was afraid to move. The only sound was the breathing of my three companions.

Suddenly I saw a light. This light was coming from underneath the floor. It was shining between the stones in the floor. Slowly, one of the large stones turned over on its side. There was now a large, square hole in the floor. The light of a lantern shone up through this hole.

I saw a face appear in the hole. By the light of the lantern, I recognized Mr. Wilson's assistant. The young man pulled himself up out of the hole. He turned round and stood beside the hole. Then he began to pull up another man after him. This man was thin and small, with bright red hair.

“Let's hurry,” whispered the young man.

Suddenly Holmes jumped forward and grabbed the young man by the neck. Immediately, the man with red hair jumped down the hole again. Jones grabbed at his coat and I heard the sound of tearing cloth. At once the young man pulled a gun out of his pocket. But Holmes hit the man's hand and the gun fell to the floor.

“Stand still, John Clay,” said Holmes. “You cannot escape.”

“All right,” replied the young man. “But I think my friend has escaped.”

“You'll see your friend very soon,” said Jones. “There are three policemen waiting for him at the front door.”

“Now then, John Clay, please hold out your hands. I'm going to take you to the police station.”

Jones put the handcuffs on John Clay's wrists, then led him upstairs. Holmes, Mr. Merryweather and I followed them from the cellar.

“Mr. Holmes,” said Mr. Merryweather, “I don't know how the bank can thank you. You've stopped a very serious crime.”

“Well,” replied Holmes, “I’ve wanted to catch John Clay for a long time. And this has been a very interesting case. I enjoyed hearing the strange story of The Red-Headed League.”

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

бояться двигаться, дыхание, квадратное отверстие, из-под пола, прыгнуть вперед, рвущаяся ткань, запястье, полицейский участок, последовать, отвечать.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Watson and the others waited in the cellar, in darkness. Watson suddenly saw a light.
 - (a) Where was it coming from?
 - (b) What happened to one of the large stones in the floor?
2. 'I think my friend has escaped,' said John Clay. What was Mr Jones' reply?
3. Why did Holmes think it had been an interesting case?

Part 8

The Mystery Explained

Later, Holmes explained to me the mystery of The Red-Headed League.

“You see, Watson,” he said, “it was clear that the men in The Red-Headed League wanted only one thing. They wanted to get Mr. Wilson out of his shop for some hours every day. That was why they kept him busy, copying out the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

“John Clay is a very clever young man. It was he who thought of The Red-Headed League. He thought of it because Mr. Wilson's hair was the same color as his friend's hair — very bright red. Clay put the

advertisement in the newspaper. Then he showed the advertisement to Mr. Wilson. He suggested to Mr. Wilson that he should apply for the vacancy in the League. When Mr. Wilson told us that his assistant was working for half pay, I knew he must have a special reason for wanting the job.”

“But Holmes,” I said, ‘how could you know what that reason was?’”

“Mr. Wilson's business is small,’ explained Holmes. “There was nothing inside his house to attract criminals. So I knew it must be something outside the house. What could it be? Mr. Wilson told us that Vincent Spaulding — or John Clay — spent many hours in the cellar. The cellar! He was doing something in the cellar. I asked more questions about Vincent Spaulding. I found out that he was John Clay, one of London's most dangerous criminals. What could John Clay want in Wilson's cellar? I could think of only one answer. He must be digging a tunnel to another building.

Then we visited Saxe-Coburg Square and I surprised you by knocking on the pavement with my stick. I wanted to find out exactly where the cellar was. I knew, from the sound my stick made, that there was no cellar in front of the house. Then I rang the doorbell and Clay answered it. I saw that the knees of his trousers were dirty. Clearly, he had been digging for many hours. But what was he digging for? I walked round the corner, saw the City and Suburban Bank and knew that I had solved the problem. When you went home, I visited Jones and Mr. Merryweather and asked them to come with us tonight.”

“How did you know the animals would try to rob the bank tonight?” I asked.

“When they closed The Red-Headed League office,” said Holmes, “I knew the tunnel was finished. The criminals were ready to move. Today is Saturday. No one would come to the bank until Monday. If they took the gold tonight, they would have two days for their escape.”

“Excellent, Holmes!” I said. “You have been very clever. You have solved another difficult case.”

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

выманить, заставить заниматься, поместить объявление, провести много часов, колени брюк, причина, копать туннель, трость, решить проблему.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Why had John Clay and Duncan Ross started The Red-Headed League?
2. Three things made Holmes think that the criminals were digging a tunnel. What were these three things?
3. Why was Holmes sure the criminals would try to rob the cellar under the bank that night?

DEADHEADS

Part 1



Death in a rose garden

Mrs. Florence Aldermann hated to see her garden looking so neglected. Her old gardener, Caldicott, and his son, Dick, had not been working properly. That was because she had refused to employ Dick's son Brent. Brent had stolen some fruit from her garden, and that was a serious crime to Mrs. Aldermann. She would have to get rid of the Caldicotts.

With this thought in her mind, she took her sharp knife and angrily cut the dead flowers from a rosebush. As the deadheads fell into her bucket, she realized that someone was watching her.

'Patrick,' she called crossly, 'come here!'

Slowly the boy came up to her. Aged about eleven, he was still small for his age. His face was pale and expressionless.

Mrs. Aldermann could never see Patrick without feeling angry. She had been angry when her niece Penelope had produced this unwanted child. She had been even angrier when Penelope refused to say who the father was. Mrs. Aldermann's anger was strong and long-lasting. She still felt angry with poor Eddie Aldermann, her husband, for dying two years ago and leaving her alone to look after Rosemont, this big house and its demanding gardens. Finally, she was angry with herself for growing old and tired, angry with herself for having a heart attack while shopping in London six months ago.

It was lucky that Penelope had been with her when illness struck. Penny was sensible, calm, and an excellent nurse. Nothing upset Penny. She had shown no anger or bitterness, for example, when told that after Mr. Aldermann's death the money he had given her for years would stop.

Florence Aldermann came out of her private hospital as soon as she was well enough to travel, and returned to Rosemont. Penny came

with her and looked after her perfectly. The only problem was that where Penelope went, Patrick had to go too. Despite this, Mrs. Aldermann had asked her niece to stay with her at Rosemont permanently. The house was too big for her to live in alone, and Penny would be grateful, she felt sure, to be offered a home in such a lovely part of Yorkshire. She could not believe her ears when Penelope said she was missing London, and would have to think about her aunt's offer. How could anyone prefer a tiny, dark London flat to a fine old house like Rosemont, with its beautiful gardens!

Mrs. Aldermann was about to speak crossly to Patrick, but before she could open her mouth, the boy said, 'Uncle Eddie used to do that. Why do you do it?'

His interest surprised her. She spoke less angrily than she had planned to.

'When the flowers fade and begin to die,' she said, 'we have to cut them off, so that new flowers can grow. We call it deadheading.' As she spoke, she expertly sliced off another faded, sweet-smelling rose.

'Deadheading,' he repeated. 'So that the new young flowers can grow.'

'That's right, Patrick.'

She felt almost pleased with the boy. For the first time, she looked at him with interest. The Caldicotts had failed her, but what if Patrick could be trained to look after her roses? What an excellent - and cheap - gardener he might become! She smiled at him.

'Here, Patrick, take the knife. I'll show you how to deadhead roses. Be careful. It's extremely sharp. It belonged to your great-uncle Eddie.'

Carefully, he took the knife in his hand.

'Let me see you remove this deadhead,' she ordered him. She took hold of a dead flower. 'Cut it just here, Patrick. Patrick! Are you listening to me?'

He looked from the knife to his great-aunt. His face was not quite so expressionless as usual. There was something new there. He

ignored the dead rose, and slowly raised the knife so that the sunlight shone on the polished steel.

'Patrick!' said Mrs. Aldermann, taking a step back.

The rose that she had been holding towards him escaped from her hand, and its thorns dug painfully into her arm. Then there were other, more violent sensations in her shoulder and neck, which had nothing to do with the rose thorns.

She screamed once before she fell backwards into the rose-bed. Petals from the dying roses rained down on her.

Patrick waited until all movement had stopped. Then he dropped the knife, and ran towards the house, shouting for his mother.

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

выглядеть заброшенным; отказывать; нанимать; тяжкое преступление; избавиться от; обрезать увядшие бутоны; сильный гнев; сердечный приступ; горечь; быть благодарным; скучать по; говорить сердито; поблекшая роза; обучать; двоюродный дедушка; шлифованная сталь; шипы болезненно вонзились в ее руке; ужасное чувство; пронзительно кричать; лепестки.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Who was Mrs. Florence Aldermann? Characterize her.
2. Whom was "Rosemont House" belonged to?
3. Which relations had Mrs. Florence with Patrick?
4. What caused Florence Aldermann's death?
5. What does this chapter tell you about Patrick's character?

Task 3. Prepare the retelling of the chapter.

Part 2

CHAPTER 1



'I think someone is killing people'

Richard Elgood was sixty years old, but as he came towards Peter Pascoe, he moved like a dancer in his soft leather shoes.

Pascoe shook Elgood's hand and smiled.

'Sit down, Mr. Elgood. How can I help you?'

Elgood did not smile, although he had a pleasant, cheerful face.

'I'm not sure how to begin, Inspector,' he said. They both sat down. Pascoe waited, watching the man, noticing his silk tie, the gold tie-pin, the expensive cut of his suit. 'Please, Mr.

Elgood,' Pascoe said. 'Tell me about it.' Elgood took a deep breath.

'There's this man. In our company. I think he's killing people.'

Pascoe was tired. He had been working for much of the previous night, waiting in a garden for some burglars who never came. He desperately wanted to sleep.

'Can you give me just a little more detail?' he asked.

'I certainly can,' Elgood said. 'I'd rather tell my friend Andy Dalziel, but if he trusts you, I'll trust you too.'

He smiled at Pascoe, and Pascoe said, 'Mr. Dalziel's very sorry he can't see you himself.'

What Detective Chief Superintendent Dalziel had actually said was, 'I haven't got time to waste on old Dick Elgood this morning. You look after him for me. And take him seriously. He's got a sharp mind, he's made more money than you or I will ever see, and he's got a lot of influence in this part of Yorkshire.'

'All right,' Pascoe had said, 'but who is Elgood? What does he do?'

'Oh, you've seen his name,' Dalziel had smiled, showing yellow teeth. 'We've all seen it many times.' Then he had gone, leaving Pascoe puzzled.

'Now, Mr. Elgood,' Pascoe said. 'You say this man works for your company. What kind of company is it?'

'Ever use a toilet?' Elgood asked.

Pascoe stared at him, speechless.

'Then you've seen my name,' Elgood went on. 'We make toilets, sinks, and all that kind of thing.'

'Of course!' Pascoe exclaimed. 'Elgood Ceramics. I should have known.'

'I built that company up with my own hands,' Elgood said proudly. 'I started with nothing, and got where I am through hard work and hard work alone.'

'And this...er . . . killer,' Pascoe said. 'He works for you, does he?'

'Yes.'

'Well, who is it? You must give me his name.'

Elgood hesitated. Then he said in a low voice, 'It's Aldermann. Patrick Aldermann.'

Later that day, Pascoe went to see Chief Superintendent Dalziel, and told him what Elgood had said.

Dalziel laughed. 'Dick's always been a bit odd, but I never thought he was actually soft in the head before!'

'Do you know him well?' Pascoe asked.

'Known him for years. He's quite a character, is old Dick. Did you notice the way he dresses, all silk shirts and gold rings? You wouldn't look twice at him in London, but you don't expect a plain Yorkshire boy to grow up into something like that. And the women! A new one every week, if you believe the gossip. Wish I had the secret of his success!'

'I see, sir,' Pascoe said. 'What exactly would you like me to do?'

'Tell me what you know so far.'

'Elgood thinks Aldermann has killed two men who worked for his company. Their names were Brian Bulmer and Timothy Eagles.'

Bulmer died in a car crash after the office party last Christmas. Eagles had a heart attack at his desk.'

'Why does Dick think Aldermann was involved?'

'I was about to tell you. Aldermann kept giving Bulmer drinks at the party, almost forcing him to drink too much to drive safely, Elgood says. And Aldermann shared an office with Eagles.'

'Why should Aldermann want to kill Bulmer and Eagles?'

'Aldermann is ambitious. Well, not exactly ambitious . . .'

'Make up your mind. Is he or isn't he?'

'Elgood doesn't think Aldermann is very interested in his job,' Pascoe explained, 'so he isn't really ambitious. But he needs more money. He would improve his chance of a better-paid job with Bulmer and Eagles out of the way. "Does Dick really believe that?" Dalziel said. 'Something else must have happened to make him come to the police. What was it?' 'You're right,' Pascoe said. 'Something did happen. It seems he had a quarrel with Aldermann last Friday. Elgood told Aldermann that he didn't intend to promote him, although Bulmer and Eagles had gone. Then he had to go out to a meeting, and after that he returned to his office and worked until late. When he turned on his desk lamp, he got a powerful electric shock. He thought it was just an accident. Then yesterday morning he went to open his garage door - one of those metal up-and-over doors. It came off its supports and almost crashed down on top of him. Fortunately, he just managed to jump out of the way. That's when he started to feel frightened.'

'Um,' said Dalziel. He scratched his huge stomach thoughtfully.

'Why doesn't Dick want to promote Aldermann?' he asked.

'Two reasons, sir. The first is simply that he doesn't think Aldermann is very good at his job. The second is office politics. There are some people on the company's Board of Directors who would like to weaken Elgood's position as Chairman, to take some of his power from him. They want Aldermann on the Board just because they know Elgood doesn't want him.'

'Is that a fact? I think we'd better have a look at Mr. Aldermann for ourselves, don't you? Got any good ideas on how we can go and see him without making him suspicious?'

'Actually, I have, sir,' Pascoe said. 'Sergeant Wield has given me some interesting information about a car which was badly scratched, probably by vandals, while it was parked in town the other day. It seems the owner is a Mrs. Daphne Aldermann, who lives at Rosemont House.'

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

кожаный, булавка для галстука, покрой костюма, глубоко вздохнуть, грабители, отчаянно, старший офицер полиции, тратить время, острый ум, иметь влияние, быть озадаченным, безмолвный, раковина, воскликнуть, колебаться, странный, сплетни, успех, автокатастрофа, заставлять кого-либо сделать что-либо, амбициозный, ссора, намереваться, авария, навесные ворота, опоры, падать с грохотом, почесать живот, подозрительный, вандалы.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Characterize Richard Elgood.
2. What was the reason of Pascoe's visit to Mr. Elgood?
3. What kind of information did Pascoe know about Mr. Aldermann?
4. Why Dick Elgood didn't want to promote Patrick Aldermann?
5. Why was Mr. Elgood afraid of him?
6. How did the police intend to meet Mr. Aldermann?

Task 3. Prepare the retelling of the chapter.

CHAPTER 2

Daphne Aldermann makes a new friend

Patrick Aldermann was standing in the garden at Rosemont, breathing in the perfume of his roses. Golden, pink, yellow, and red,

they were a beautiful sight, and he smiled to himself as he inspected the flowers he loved.

Life had been kind to Patrick. In his early thirties he still looked young and handsome. He was happily married, and had a son and a daughter, both at expensive private schools.

His moment of peaceful enjoyment in the garden did not last long. The sound of his daughter Diana's voice reminded him that today he had to drive her to school. Normally his wife Daphne did this, but her car had been damaged by vandals, and was at the garage, being repaired.

He also knew that before he left he must find time to speak to his gardeners. They were the Caldicotts, the same family who had worked for his great-aunt. The old man had died, and now Dick, his son Brent and two young assistants kept the gardens neat and tidy. One of them had left the greenhouse door open, and Patrick wanted to make it clear to all of them that this was a serious offence. In future it would be better if none of them entered the greenhouse at all.

Daphne Aldermann waited patiently for her husband, although she wanted to speak to her daughter's teacher that morning and was eager to go. She knew how important the garden was to Patrick. A tall, good-looking, blonde woman, she had married young, very soon after the terrible accident that had killed her father. Now, twelve years and two children later, she knew that she was very lucky - in every way but one. She did not feel she really knew her husband. He seemed to live in a different world from her, a world in which the future was as certain as the past. It was strange how frightening she found this.

The sun was shining as they left Rosemont, but by the time they reached Diana's school, the sky was black.

'Oh no!' Daphne said.

'Looks like rain, doesn't it?' Patrick said. 'Shall I wait and drive you into town?'

'No, thanks,' Daphne replied. 'I'm not afraid of a bit of rain. Look! That lot are here again.'

She pointed to a small group of women, who were standing near the school gate. Two of them had small children with them, and each was carrying a sign on which she had written her own message.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS = PUBLIC DISASTER was one; another was FREE SCHOOLS FOR ALL CHILDREN.

'Don't speak to them,' Patrick advised her. 'Goodbye, dear.'

Fifteen minutes later, finding herself out in the street in a heavy shower, Daphne felt less happy about walking into town in the rain. She looked around for a friend, but all the other mothers had gone. As she hesitated on the pavement, she noticed a young woman with short black hair putting a baby into a rather old car. Daphne wondered if she had seen her before, and smiled hopefully.

'You look as if you need a lift,' the woman said.

'Thanks awfully. That's really most kind of you,' Daphne replied.

She opened the car door. As she did so, something on the back seat caught her eye. The words PUBLIC DISASTER seemed to jump out at her.

'It's all right,' the woman said. 'I won't talk about it.'

A cold wind was blowing rain onto Daphne's legs. She got in.

'What a lovely little boy!' she said brightly, looking at the baby, who was wearing blue clothes.

'Actually, she's a girl,' the woman said, 'and she isn't always lovely. The blue clothes are a test of people's automatic reactions. Why should pink mean a girl and blue a boy? Let me introduce my daughter, Rose.'

'And you,' Daphne said coolly. 'Are you Rose's mother or her father?'

For a moment the woman looked shocked. Then she threw back her head and laughed loudly.

'Mother,' she said. 'My name's Ellie. Ellie Pascoe. Rose and I are on our way to have a cup of coffee. Would you like to join us?'

'Why not?' Daphne said.

Ten minutes later Daphne found herself drinking milky coffee in the Market Cafe, where Ellie and Rose seemed to be well-known customers. It was cheerful and noisy and full of shopkeepers from the market. It was not the sort of place Daphne usually went to for coffee. She wondered if Ellie had brought her there deliberately, hoping to make her feel uncomfortable - a rich woman among the workers. She

saw Ellie watching her in amusement, when suddenly all conversation in the cafe stopped. Looking up, Daphne saw that two policemen had come in. One was an elderly man, and the other a young Asian, hardly more than a boy.

The customers relaxed and started talking again as it became clear that the policemen only wanted a cup of tea. They were looking around for an empty table when, to Daphne's surprise, the older man came towards her and Ellie.

'Hello, Mrs. Pascoe,' he said. 'How are you? How's little Rose?'

'We're fine, Mr. Wedderburn. Who's your friend? I haven't seen him before.'

'This is Police Cadet Shaheed Singh,' Wedderburn said. 'I'm introducing him to the joys of traffic control. Singh, this is Mrs. Pascoe, Detective Inspector Pascoe's wife.'

Ellie smiled at Singh.

'Will you join us?' she said.

The young man smiled back at her, but Wedderburn said, 'Thanks, but we can't. A quick cup of tea and then we must get back to work. Nice to see you, Mrs. Pascoe.'

'Well,' Daphne said, when the men had gone, 'so I'm in with the police, am I?'

'My husband's in the police, yes,' Ellie replied, 'but I'm not. What does your husband do, Daphne?'

'He works for Elgood Ceramics.'

'So you take a big interest in sinks and toilets, do you?'

'Not really,' Daphne said, looking puzzled.

'Exactly,' Ellie said. 'We may be married, but we are still individual people, aren't we?'

'Yes, but it isn't as simple as that. What if I told you that my husband was involved in some crime? Wouldn't you feel you should tell your husband?'

Ellie thought about it for a moment. Then she said, 'I'm not sure. What if I told you my husband was investigating yours? Would you feel you had to tell him?'

Before Daphne could answer, she was interrupted by a well-built, middle-aged lady, dressed in bright colours, who was coming

towards them with a cup of coffee in one hand, and a large plate of chocolate cake in the other.

'Hello!' she cried. 'It's Daphne Aldermann, isn't it? Lovely to see you again! I always meant to keep in touch, but life gets so busy, doesn't it?'

She turned and waved at three men, who were sitting at a table on the other side of the cafe.

'Coming, darlings! Must rush, Daphne. Bye!'

'So you do know someone who comes here,' Ellie said. 'You should have asked your friend to sit down. She looks like an interesting character.'

'Do you really think so? Well, Mandy Burke is hardly one of my best friends. Her husband used to work with mine, until he died about four or five years ago. I've only met her once or twice since then. Anyway, I don't think Mandy would want to sit with two women and a baby when there are men she could be entertaining!'

Ellie laughed. She was finding this elegant lady a surprisingly amusing companion.

'Let me get you some more coffee, Daphne,' she said.

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

вдыхать, тщательно осматривать, выглядеть красивым, быть женатым, быть поврежденным хулиганами, ремонтировать, помощник, аккуратный и опрятный, дверь оранжереи, тяжкое правонарушение, ждать терпеливо, ужасный несчастный случай, плакат (вывеска), катастрофа, колебаться, подвозить (на машине), откинуть голову, клиенты (покупатели), намеренно, изумление, расследовать, поддерживать связь с к.-л.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. What was Patrick and Daphne Aldermanns' daily routine?

2. Why did Patrick like to spend his free time in the garden?
3. How did Daphne and Ellie first meet?
4. How did Daphne discover that Ellie was a policeman's wife?

Task 3. Prepare the retelling of the chapter.

CHAPTER 3



The most important thing in life

Patrick Aldermann's office still had the name of Timothy Eagles on the door. That didn't upset him. As his colleagues knew, it was difficult to upset Patrick.

Elgood remembered the party they had had at the office the previous Christmas. He had noticed Aldermann talking to the financial director, Brian Bulmer, and he had also seen that Bulmer was drinking heavily. Dick Elgood, however, had his mind on other things. He was leaving the party early, to meet a lady. Hours later, the news reached him. Bulmer's car had crashed, minutes after the end of the party, and he was dead.

Dick Elgood had spent that Christmas alone at his holiday cottage by the sea. He thought a lot about Bulmer's death and about who should replace him on the Board of Directors. The best man would be the chief accountant, Timothy Eagles, who was good at his job and loyal to the company. Some of the directors, who were led by a man called Eric Quayle, wanted Patrick Aldermann, but Elgood would not listen to them.

Then Eagles had died, suffering a fatal heart attack as he sat at his desk. It soon became clear that Quayle and his group wanted to make a serious attack on Elgood's chairmanship. They supported Aldermann, not because he would make a good director, but because they knew Elgood didn't want him on the Board. During that year, Elgood found himself fighting a battle, a battle for his survival as Chairman of the Board.

Aldermann himself appeared not to care whether he became a member of the Board or not. 'Honestly, Dick,' he had told Elgood last Friday, 'it doesn't bother me at all.'

This made Elgood so angry that he ended up shouting at Aldermann, 'If you ever get a place on the Board, it'll be over my dead body!' Patrick had continued to smile politely.

Yesterday Elgood had gone to the police with his story, but since then he had calmed down and regained his self-control. He knew that for him the most important thing in the world was to hold on to the power he had as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

He called his secretary into the room. 'I want you to check something for me,' he told her. 'Find out exactly when Mr. Aldermann is taking his holiday this summer.' Then he rang a London number, and asked for Mr. Raymond Easey.

In his office on the floor below, Patrick Aldermann was opening his private letters, one of which contained a thick bundle of papers. He, too, phoned someone in London, and then called his secretary in.

'I'll be away next Thursday and Friday,' he told her. He smiled in a way which made her think how young and handsome he still was. 'I think you can all manage without me for a couple of days,' he said.

When Aldermann got home that evening, he found Daphne's car back in the garage. It had been repaired, and he examined the new paint before he went into the house.

Diana ran to meet him. 'Mummy's outside,' she told him.

He lifted her onto his shoulders, and together they went to find Daphne, who was relaxing in the garden. It had rained earlier, but now it was a perfect June evening.

'I see your car's back,' he said. 'Look! The rain's knocked some petals off the roses.'

'Leave them,' Daphne said. 'I'll get us a drink. Sit down and have a rest after your hard day at the office.'

She went into the house. In the distance, Patrick heard the front doorbell ring. A couple of minutes later Daphne came back, bringing the drinks, but also bringing two men with her. The older man was white, the younger Asian, but what made Patrick stare at them was the ugliness of the one and the beauty of the other.

'I'm Detective Sergeant Wiold,' the ugly man said, 'and this is Police Cadet Singh.'

'How can I help you?' Patrick asked politely.

'Actually, darling, they want to see me,' Daphne said. 'It's about the car. We can talk in the house so that we don't disturb you.'

'You won't disturb me,' Patrick said. 'I'd be interested to hear what the police are doing, and to help if possible.'

'Very kind, sir,' Wiold said. He wanted to have a good look at Patrick Aldermann, and to include him in the conversation if he could.

Wiold turned to Daphne. 'Now, ma'am. On Monday this week you parked your car in the Station Street multi-storey car park. What time did you leave it?'

'Nine fifteen, I think. I took my daughter to school, and then drove into town to do some shopping.'

'And you didn't come back until after three o'clock. Did you spend the whole day shopping?'

'I'm afraid so,' Daphne laughed. 'When I got back, someone else had already found his car damaged, and the police were there.'

'And when you left your car, were there any others there?'

'I can't remember,' Daphne said. 'I might have been the first. Does it matter?'

No, Wiold thought, it didn't matter. This plan of getting a good look at Aldermann was not going too well.

'Not many more questions,' he said. 'Do you know anyone who might want to harm you in some way?'

'By damaging my car?' Daphne said, surprised. 'But it wasn't just my car. Others were damaged, too.'

'I know. But the scratchings on your car might have been words. Words which suggest they knew it was a woman's car.'

'I'd left my hat in the car,' Daphne said. 'Anyone could see that.'

'What words were scratched on the car, Sergeant?' Patrick asked.

'Hard to say, sir,' Wiold said uncomfortably. Dalziel would say those words, he thought. He'd enjoy embarrassing these people!

'Why would this person damage other cars, if these words were aimed only at my wife?'

'We have to try everything, sir,' Wiold told him. 'For example, what about you? Do you have any enemies who might want to do you some harm? Anyone you know through your work?'

Patrick shook his head. 'I work for Elgood Ceramics. I can think of nobody there who dislikes me enough to do this.' He was getting nowhere, Wiold thought desperately. He would have to tell Pascoe this visit was a waste of time.

Suddenly Diana, who had been looking shyly at Police Cadet Singh through her fingers, said, 'Mummy, can I show him my flowers?'

'Oh, I don't think . . .' Daphne began, but Singh jumped to his feet with a smile and said, 'Of course, I'd love to see them. Come and show me.'

'I hope you don't mind, sir,' Wiold said to Patrick. 'He's a good lad. And your garden is a real treat to the eyes. Especially the roses.'

Patrick's smile was as happy as Singh's, it's a good year for them,' he said. 'Do you grow roses, Sergeant?'

'I'm afraid not,' Wiold said. 'I've only got a very small garden.'

'There are roses for every garden.' Patrick's voice had changed, and was full of enthusiasm. 'Even the smallest garden has room for a few roses, if you choose the right varieties. And think of the excitement of planting a new variety, and watching the first roses open!'

i see plenty of excitement in my job,' Wiold laughed.

'Do you?' Patrick asked seriously, i find life holds surprisingly few surprises - outside my garden, I mean.'

i really must see to the dinner,' Daphne said. 'And it's time Diana came in.' She spoke politely, but clearly she was eager for Wiold and Singh to leave.

Patrick ignored this. 'Diana's perfectly happy,' he said. 'Just listen to her. And I must show the Sergeant one or two roses I'd like to recommend to him.'

He led Wiold to a large greenhouse, where he picked up a bag and took a knife from a high shelf. The greenhouse was full of tools and there was a large wall-cupboard with a heavy lock on the door.

'Good to see you've got strong locks, sir,' Wiold said approvingly.

'I have to be careful, Sergeant, with children about,' Patrick replied. 'I keep enough pesticide in that cupboard to poison an army.'

As they walked among the roses, he used the knife to cut off dying flowers, which he dropped into the bag.

'Surely you have help with the garden?' Wield said. 'You can't look after all this by yourself.'

'I have help,' Patrick told him, 'but I do as much as possible myself. This garden is the centre of my life. I dream of having more time to give to it. I think we are all damaged, don't you, by limits on the development of our true nature — limits forced on us by the hard necessities of life.'

Wield felt that the man was speaking directly to him, as if Patrick Aldermann could know his own unhappy story. Ugly as he was, Wield had loved, and had been loved. He was alone now, and he could not bear to think of his loneliness.

'That's a fine knife,' he said, wanting to change the way the conversation was going.

Patrick smiled. 'It belonged to my great-uncle. He created this garden. He loved it very much. Cutting off the dying flowers is a sad but necessary job for a gardener. A true lover of plants like my great-uncle always wants to do it quickly and kindly. He needs the sharpest knife possible.'

The sun flashed on the point of the knife.

'Now, let me show you these.'

His enthusiasm for his roses had something almost religious about it. Wield found he envied the man, not for his house, his garden or his family, but just because he knew so well what he wanted from life, and was able to enjoy it. He felt sad when Daphne called Patrick to dinner, and it was time for them to go.

'I hope it was all right for me to play with the little girl,' Singh said to him as they walked to the car. 'I thought it would give you more time to speak to her mum.'

Wield stared at him for a moment, forgetting that Singh knew nothing about the real reason for their visit.

'That Mrs. Aldermann,' the boy went on, 'she was in the Market Cafe this morning, and guess who she was with? Mr. Pascoe's wife!'

Wield stared at him again, coldly this time. 'You were supposed to be on traffic duty, not hanging around the Market Cafe,' he said roughly. They drove back to the Police Station in silence.

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

предыдущий, быть в состоянии сильного алкогольного опьянения, известия дошли до него, врезаться, смерть, совет директоров, главный бухгалтер, сердечный приступ со смертельным исходом, председательство, принимать участие в сражении, выживание, вернуть самообладание, пачка бумаги (документов), исследовать, поднять на плечи, сбить лепестки, уродство (безобразие), беспокоить (мешать), вовлечь в разговор, многоэтажная парковка, царапины, смущать, враги, вред, отчаянно, хороший парень, отрада для глаз, сорта, тяжелый замок, одобрительно, нужда (необходимость), одиночество, обрезать завянувшие цветы, сверкнуть на острее ножа, завидовать, уставиться (глазеть), сказать грубо.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. What kind of events did Mr. Elgood remember which had happened at the office during Christmas party?
2. What was Aldermann's attitude towards his work?
3. Why did Wield and Singh go to visit the Aldermanns?
4. What kind of information did Wield reveal about Patrick?

Task 3. Prepare the retelling of the chapter.

CHAPTER 4



Another death at Elgood Ceramics

Peter Pascoe was dancing baby Rose on his knee. 'Silly old Dalziel, silly old Dalziel,' he sang to her over and over again.

'What's the fat creature done to you now?' Ellie asked, as she came into the room.

'Fat creature! What a way to talk about your daughter,' Pascoe said.

'Very funny. What has Dalziel done?'

'Oh, nothing much. He just goes on about this Elgood and Aldermann thing. But I don't know what he wants me to do. Wield went to see them last night. . .'

'The Aldermanns?'

'Yes. He pretended it was all about your friend Daphne's car.'

'What did he find out?'

'Nothing.'

Pascoe did not plan to discuss with his wife all the poisons that Patrick Aldermann kept in his greenhouse. There was no proof that he had used them on anything but insects. There was no proof that Elgood's experiences with the desk lamp and the garage door were anything but accidents.

'I'll have to tell Elgood he's imagining things,' Pascoe said. 'He's been lying in the sun too long at his holiday cottage.'

'All the same,' Ellie said, 'Elgood Ceramics doesn't seem a very healthy place to work. All those sudden deaths. This child is wet, by the way.'

'Only two deaths we know about. It's your turn to change Rose. I'm waiting for a phone call from the office.'

'Don't let Andy Dalziel work you so hard!'

'He's a good policeman,' Pascoe said seriously. 'He knows what he's doing, or I hope he does! Anyway, he's going to a conference in London, and I expect this stupid business about Aldermann will be over by the time he gets back.'

'Well,' said Ellie, 'if it does continue, I hope you'll tell me. It makes it rather awkward for me if my husband is investigating my new friend's husband.'

She picked Rose up and took her upstairs. As she went out of the room, the telephone rang. Pascoe picked it up, spoke a few words, and then listened carefully.

'I asked them to check for me,' he told Ellie when she came back downstairs. 'There has been one more death at Elgood Ceramics. A man called Burke fell off a ladder outside his home. Accidental death, the report said. No suspicious circumstances. He was assistant to Eagles, the chief accountant.'

'And Aldermann got that job?'

'Yes. It doesn't mean anything, of course, but I'll ask Elgood about it. By the way, when are you seeing Daphne Aldermann again?'

'We're having coffee tomorrow. Why?'

'Nothing. What's she like?'

'Pleasant. Lively. Very traditional middle-class attitudes, of course, but she's not stupid.' 'Attractive?'

'Oh, yes. Attractive all right.'

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

создание (человек), притворяться, обнаружить, яд, доказательство, переживание (опыт), неловкий (неудобный), упасть с лестницы, случайная смерть, иметь подозрения, обстоятельства, отношения.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. What were the Pascoes discussing?
2. What did Peter Pascoe hide from his wife? Why?
3. What kind of information did Peter get to know on the phone?

Task 3. Act out the conversation between Peter and Ellie Pascoe.

CHAPTER 5

'Forget I ever came to see you'

Next afternoon Pascoe went to see Elgood in his office. He found him eating a sandwich at his desk, looking rushed and nervous.

'Had your lunch?' Elgood asked him. 'Lucky man! Can't talk to you for long. Got a meeting to go to.'

'These are tough times in business,' Pascoe said.

'Yes. Look, I'm beginning to feel I've been a bit soft, coming to see you. I should have thought about it first. Last thing I want is policemen all over the office, asking people questions. I got a bit upset the other day, that's all.'

Pascoe said nothing. Then he put a bag down on Elgood's desk. 'Your lamp,' he said. 'We've checked it. And the garage door. There's no proof there was any criminal action. No proof there wasn't, either.'

'I see. Looks as if I've made a bit of a fool of myself, doesn't it? Thanks for calling, Inspector.'

'One more thing. A man called Burke used to work here, didn't he?'

'Yes. What about it?'

'He fell off a ladder and broke his neck, didn't he? And then Patrick Aldermann got his job. Looks a bit suspicious.'

'Doesn't mean a thing,' Elgood said. 'An accident. And anyway, it was four years ago! Well, I'm a busy man, and I suppose you are too. At least I've given Andy Dalziel something to laugh about.'

Pascoe was about to leave the office, when he caught sight of a photograph on the wall. Elgood was in the centre of it, a confident smile on his face. Among the names underneath the photo was Aldermann.

'Who's that?' Pascoe asked. 'Any relation to our Patrick?'

'His great-uncle,' Elgood said. 'Eddie Aldermann. A great man was Eddie. Very good accountant. Could have been very rich, but he spent it all on that big house, Rosemont. His wife, Florence, wanted the big house, and Eddie wanted the garden, and that's where the money went.'

'Any children?'

'No.'

'So they left the house to Patrick?'

'No. It went to Flo Aldermann's niece, Penny Highsmith. Nice girl was Penny. Patrick's her son.'

'So she's Penny Highsmith and he's Patrick Aldermann. How is that?'

'Oh, Patrick thought the sun shone out of Eddie,' Elgood said. 'Changed his name to Aldermann, didn't he? Wanted to be a second Eddie. Well, he can grow roses all right, but he's not the accountant Eddie was, not by a long way.'

'Yet you gave him a job?'

'Why not? For Eddie's sake. Patrick was working for a company in Harrogate for a bit, but then he left. He didn't find a new job too easily. I think myself he was living on his great-uncle's money, spending most of his time on those gardens of his. The job with us was only temporary, but then Chris Burke died, so Patrick took his place.'

'But he isn't a great success?'

'He doesn't do too badly,' Elgood said. 'His heart isn't in it, though. He isn't really interested. People like him. He has charm, has Patrick. Look, I must go now. Forget I ever came to see you. Forget what I said about Patrick Aldermann. You understand me, don't you? Just drop it!'

Pascoe was left alone. As he walked out of the building, a tall dark man went through the door just ahead of him. He stopped to get into a car, and Pascoe noticed the beautifully shaped rose he wore in his buttonhole. It was a most unusual pinky-blue colour. Surely, this had to be Patrick Aldermann.

As Pascoe passed the car, he exchanged greetings with the man, who then said, 'Can I give you a lift?'

'No, thanks,' Pascoe replied, 'I've got my own car here. Excuse me, but I can't help looking at your rose. What a fascinating colour!'

'Do you like it?' the man said. 'It's called Blue Moon. Please take it.'

'Oh, I couldn't!'

'Why not? Blue Moon means improbability. We all need a little improbability in life, don't we? We must find the courage to reach out and take what life offers us.'

He put the rose in Pascoe's hand.

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

выглядеть обеспокоенным и нервным, тяжелые времена, преступное деяние, поставить себя в глупое положение, сломать шею, выглядеть подозрительным, предполагать, собираться покинуть офис, заметить фотографию, уверенная улыбка, племянница, выделяться (блистать), временная работа, не пользоваться большим успехом, выкладывать душу в работу, очарование (шарм), бросать ч.-л. делать, заметить, бутоньерка, обменяться приветствиями, подвозить к.-л., очаровательный цвет, невероятность (неправдоподобие), мужество.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. What was the purpose of Pascoe's visit to Mr. Elgood?
2. What caught Peter Pascoe's sight at the photo?
3. What did he know about Eddie Aldermann?
4. Did Patrick Aldermann like his job?
5. How did Peter Pascoe and Patrick Aldermann meet? Describe in details.

Task 3. Act out the dialogue between Peter Pascoe and Patrick Aldermann.

CHAPTER 6

Shaheed Singh investigates

Police Cadet Shaheed Singh was in a difficult situation. Walking past the shops on his way to the Police Station, he had met a couple of his old school friends. They seemed pleased to see him and, as they had no jobs, they had plenty of time to ask him about his, and to admire his uniform.

The trouble was, the group had grown bigger, some silly games had started, and now they had taken his hat, and everyone was trying it on and laughing. He wanted to be friendly, but he also wanted his hat back, and he didn't know how to get it.

'Excuse me, Officer,' a woman's clear voice cut through the laughter. 'Can you help me, please? I'm looking for the Chantry Coffee House. Can you direct me to it? Are you going that way yourself?'

'Yes, of course,' Singh said. He held out his hand, and someone gave him his hat. He put it on carefully.

When they had walked a short distance, he said, 'Thank you, Mrs. Pascoe. They're not bad lads, you know. They just haven't got anything else to do.'

'You're luckier than they are,' Ellie said. 'You found a job.'

Oh, I could have worked in my dad's shop,' Singh said. 'I thought I'd rather be in the police.'

'And are you enjoying it?'

'It gets a bit boring sometimes. I'm ambitious, Mrs. Pascoe. I want to do really well and get promoted fast.'

He stopped as they reached the Coffee House, and he could see Mrs. Aldermann waiting for her inside. It did not surprise him that she and Mrs. Pascoe were friends. To him the two women seemed very similar - confident, middle-class women who never had to worry about things like money. This thought would probably have annoyed Ellie, who considered that she was much more modern and progressive than Daphne.

Police Cadet Singh walked back to the station, thinking about Mrs. Aldermann. He could not understand why Sergeant Wield had

wanted to talk to her for so long about her car. He had no idea that Wield was interested in Patrick Aldermann.

When he arrived at the station, the first person he saw was David Bradley, one of the men who had been sent to the car park to examine the damaged cars.

'Got a moment?' Singh asked him.

'What's up, young Shady?' Bradley asked.

'That Mrs. Aldermann. The one whose car was damaged. Wield's been asking her questions.'

'Wield? Why's he interested? There's nothing to say about her. A man called us. He was angry because his car had been scratched. She didn't seem to care. Just wanted to jump in the car and go, without speaking to us.'

'Didn't she have to stop and put all her shopping in the back of the car?'

'Shopping? She didn't have any. What's all this about, young Shady? Are you after Mr. Dalziel's job already?'

'Just trying to learn how it's done,' Singh said. 'Did you say all the cars had been parked there by nine?'

'Yes. All right, Sherlock Holmes? Is that enough for you?'

'Thanks,' Singh said. He wished Bradley wouldn't talk to him as if he were an annoying child. Nobody else was treated like that. Did they do it to him just because he was black? He would show Bradley! He would show them all just how good at his job he could be!

'If Elgood says forget it, then forget it,' Dalziel said.

'I'm sorry, sir,' Pascoe told him, 'but I feel there's something wrong. What's strangest of all is that Elgood told us Aldermann had killed Bulmer and Eagles, but he's sure Burke's death was an accident.'

'Dick will have a reason, believe me,' Dalziel said. 'Remember, he's no fool. He's playing some game. We'll find out sooner or later what it is.'

'Well, I didn't have much luck,' Pascoe went on, 'but I did meet Aldermann. He gave me a blue rose.'

'He showed me his roses, too,' said Wield, coming in quietly. 'He was difficult to talk to at first, but he really came to life when he talked about the roses.'

'More interested in the roses than in his family?' Pascoe asked.

'Plenty of men are more interested in their hobbies than their families,' Dalziel said sharply. 'It's not a crime yet.'

'He really loves those roses,' Wield said. 'You should see him deadheading them, sir. He's got a special sharp knife. He uses it so skillfully.'

'I hope you're not suggesting that just because he cuts the heads off roses with his nice shiny knife, he does the same to people!'

'No, of course not, sir,' agreed Wield.

'So why should we waste time on this business?'

'Curiosity, sir,' Pascoe said immediately.

'Curiosity?'

'Yes. I want to know how this man, who isn't very good at his job, has got so far. He may be about to join the Board of Directors of an important company.'

'Half the people in top jobs don't deserve them,' Dalziel said. 'Listen, he sounds like Mr. Average to me. Dull, ordinary; wife and two children, nice house, nice garden. I expect he even has a dear old mother.'

'I can tell you about that lady,' Pascoe said. 'Mrs. Penelope Highsmith. Lives in London.'

'Highsmith? Why not Aldermann? Did she marry again?'

'She's never been married. Patrick chose to take his great-uncle's name. She's never told anyone who Patrick's father was.'

Dalziel didn't seem to be listening. Suddenly he burst out, 'Penny Highsmith! Did she live here?' 'Yes. Patrick went to school here.'

'I know her! I remember her well. She was a grand girl, full of fun. It must be her!'

The look in his eye told Pascoe that he had happy memories of Penny Highsmith. A smile lit up his fat face.

'I'll tell you what,' Dalziel said. 'I've got to go to this bloody conference in London. I'll be away a couple of days. You

can see what you can do with this business while I'm away. Don't waste time on it, though. Now go away. I've got things to do.'

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

кадет, полицейский участок, пара школьных друзей, иметь много времени, восхищаться формой, голос женщины раздался сквозь смех, плохие парни, амбициозный, уверенный, раздражать, выяснить, оживиться, пользоваться искусно ножом, любопытство, заслужить работу, внезапно расцвести (об эмоциях), великолепная девушка, тратить время.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. What was Shaheed Singh?
2. Whom he directed to the Chantry Coffee House?
3. What did Police Cadet Shaheed Singh get to know about Mrs. Aldermann?
4. Which facts made Pascoe continue the investigation?
5. What was Patrick Aldermann's real name? Why did he change it?
6. What do you know about Mr. Aldermann's mother?

Task 3. Act out the dialogue between:

- a) Police Cadet Shaheed Singh and Mrs. Pascoe.
- b) Peter Pascoe and Dalziel.

CHAPTER 7

How Daphne's father died

Daphne Aldermann was amused to find that Ellie and Rose visited the Chantry Coffee House as often as the Market Cafe. 'The coffee's better here,' Ellie said.

'But I'm sure you disapprove of the people, don't you?' Daphne said, looking round at all the middle-aged, middle-class ladies.

'I'm not sure I like crowds of any kind of people,' Ellie said. 'One at a time they're different.'

'When you're in the church, as my father was,' Daphne said, 'you have to accept all kinds of people. And they usually bang on your door asking for help just at dinner time!'

'Your poor father,' Ellie said. 'Or do you feel sorry for your mother, who had cooked the dinner, and then had to see it go cold?'

Daphne smiled. 'I suppose you want to suggest my mother had a miserable life in a male-centred family. In fact, I did the cooking. Mummy died when I was just a child.'

'Well,' Ellie said, 'people shouldn't have to ask the church for help. The state should provide for their needs.'

Daphne laughed. 'Come on! You don't know a lot about human nature, do you? Everyone knew Daddy was a kind man, and he had plenty of money. Mummy came from a rich family, you see.'

She looked sad, so Ellie said cheerfully, 'At least that meant he could afford some help in the house after you got married.'

'No.' Daphne looked close to tears. 'He was dead by that time. It was awful. He had to go to Little Leven to inspect the church, because the tower needed repairing. A stone fell on him and killed him.'

'I'm so sorry,' Ellie said gently. 'What a terrible thing to happen.'

She wondered whether to put an arm around Daphne, but was uncertain what to do. Fortunately, at that moment Rose plunged her hand into a chocolate cake, and Daphne's sad story was forgotten in the confusion. They talked for another hour before arranging to meet again the following week.

Ellie and Peter Pascoe had a late dinner that night. He had been delayed by another burglary at a local country house, while she had a crying baby to keep her busy.

Over dinner she told him about Rose's adventure with the chocolate cake, and went on to talk about Daphne.

'She was only seventeen when she met Patrick. He was an accountant in Harrogate, and did some work for her father's church. When they decided to get married, her father wasn't happy about it. Thought she was too young. Then he died. I think she still feels guilty for upsetting him just before his death.'

'How did he die?'

'The church killed him,' Ellie said mysteriously. 'Overwork?'

'No. A stone from Little Leven church tower fell on him.' Pascoe whistled. 'People seem to drop dead right and left around Patrick Aldermann, don't they?' he said. 'Interesting information! You're doing well!'

'Now look!' Ellie said. 'Daphne's my friend. I was just having a nice gossip, not acting as a police informer. I thought you told me all the business about Patrick murdering people was just nonsense.'

'I think it is,' Pascoe said. 'But do you mean you wouldn't tell me if you knew something that suggested he *was* a murderer?'

A sudden cry from Rose put an end to their discussion of this interesting but puzzling question.

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

быть удивленным, осуждать, толпа, принимать людей, стучать в дверь, несчастная жизнь, обеспечивать, позволить себе, нуждаться в реконструкции (ремонте), интересоваться (сомневаться),

неразбериха замешательство, условиться встретиться, задерживаться, кража со взломом, приключение (авантюра), чувствовать себя виновным, говорить загадочно, сплетница, информатор, вздор.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. What did you get to know about Daphne's Aldermann's life?
2. How did Daphne's father die?
3. What were the Pascoe discussing during the dinner?

Task 3. Act out the dialogue between:

- a) Daphne Aldermann and Ellie Pascoe.
- b) Ellie and Peter Pascoe.

CHAPTER 8



Daphne's secret

Shaheed Singh was at the top of the multi-storey car park where Daphne Aldermann's car had been damaged.

Ever since his visit to Rosemont with Sergeant Wield, he had been thinking about the case. He wanted so badly to do something right, to be a success as a policeman. Most of his old school friends had no jobs. He supposed he was lucky, but at the moment he didn't feel it. Important men like Dalziel and Pascoe never noticed him, Sergeant Wield seemed to think he was a fool, and some of the others - well, he was sure they disliked him just because he was black.

He looked at his watch. Time to go. Wedderburn would be waiting for him for more boring traffic control.

At that moment the lift doors opened and five youths got out. He knew two of them, Jonty Marsh and Mick Feaver. They had been in his class at school.

'Hello, Shady!' they yelled. 'What's going on?'

'Someone's been damaging cars,' he told them, thinking quickly. 'We've got to catch them.'

'We!' laughed Jonty. 'There's only you here. *You'll* never catch anyone!'

'No,' Singh said seriously. 'You don't understand. The others are hidden, waiting. I've been sent out to have a word with you, because I said I knew you at school.'

He wasn't sure if Jonty believed him, but Mick and the others looked frightened and guilty. Singh had suspected his old friends. Now he was becoming sure that they had done the damage. He went on, half proud of himself, half ashamed of his power over these boys.

'The thing is, there's more to this than damage to a few cars. There's one car we're very interested in. If you have any information about it, you'll be helping us, and we always try to be nice to people who do that.'

He described Daphne's car to them. What happened next was better than anything he could have expected.

'Yeah, we saw her all right!'

'Blonde hair, yeah, tasty piece she was!'

'We know what she was getting into his car for!'

In a few minutes Shaheed Singh discovered that Daphne Aldermann had parked her car and got straight into another one. It was a big car, a BMW, and there was a man at the wheel.

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

преуспеть в работе полицейского, кричать (вопить), словить (поймать), перекинуться парой слов (поговорить), выглядеть испуганным и виноватым, подозревать, стыдиться, описать, обнаружить, быть за рулем.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Whom did Shaheed Singh meet at the top of multi-storey car park?

2. What kind of fact were revealed about Daphne Aldermann?

Task 3. Prepare the retelling of the chapter.

CHAPTER 9

Is Patrick Aldermann a thief?

Peter Pascoe also found he couldn't stop thinking about the Aldermann case. It was nonsense, he was sure, but it fascinated him. Elgood must be suffering from overwork, and his imagination was working overtime. Pascoe knew all about stress, and the peculiar things it did to the mind. He had no time to spare for this nonsense, he told himself, as he picked up the phone and asked for Detective Inspector Skelwith of Harrogate police. He asked him to find out if they had any information about Patrick Aldermann, who used to work as an accountant in Harrogate.

'I'll try,' Skelwith promised. 'I wanted to talk to you, anyway. It looks as if the burglars you've had in your area have been at work over here.'

'Does it?' Pascoe said. 'Why don't I come over and see you this afternoon?'

He spent an hour at the burgled house with Skelwith, comparing the methods used with his own burglaries, and later, over tea at the office, came the reward Pascoe had hoped for.

'Aldermann worked for Bailey and Capstick,' Skelwith told him. 'He lost his job, it seems, and he was lucky it ended there. My advice, if you want the whole story, is to go and see old Capstick. He's retired, now. His address is Church House, Little Leven.'

Herbert Capstick seemed pleased to meet Pascoe. The old man lay in a wheelchair, looking out of the window at his pretty garden, beyond which Pascoe could see a church. This must be the church where Daphne's father had been killed.

Tea was served by a housekeeper, and Pascoe explained carefully that his enquiries were not really official; he only wanted to satisfy his own curiosity.

'Any information you give me,' he said to the old man, 'will of course remain confidential.'

Herbert Capstick looked at him thoughtfully for a moment, and then smiled. 'Very well, Mr. Pascoe. I will tell you about Patrick. He came here as a young, newly qualified accountant. He was quiet, not particularly good at his job, but pleasant enough. I knew his great-uncle Edward very well. He was a very successful accountant. He made enough money to buy that old house, Rosemont, and rebuild that wonderful garden. Patrick loved Eddie, loved to talk about him, although he had only met him a few times. You know he changed his name from Highsmith to Aldermann? He had Eddie's love of roses, too.'

The old man pointed out into the garden.

'Look at those roses. Eddie planted some for me, more than thirty years ago. I've got just one of those left now. Patrick replaced the rest for me when they got too old. Roses grow old, Mr. Pascoe, just like people. Patrick said the old must give way to the new, but the new must deserve their place. Look at them. Aren't they beautiful?'

They were, Pascoe could see, lovely roses, but he was eager for Capstick to get on with his story.

'Why did Patrick leave Bailey and Capstick?' he asked.

The old man looked sad.

'He was dishonest. Quite unexpected. A terrible shock to me.'

You see, there was an old lady, Mrs. McNeil. She had a lot of money, and she wanted Patrick to manage it for her. He's very charming, you see, and she trusted him. She thought he was wonderful. Then one day he was not in the office when she called. There was a lot of flu around at the time, and he had caught it. Mrs. McNeil wanted something, and I had to look at the books. Then I discovered what he had been doing. For three

or four years, Mr. Pascoe, he had been carefully and steadily stealing her money.'

He paused, and shook his old head sorrowfully. 'I had to tell him what I had found. He didn't deny it, just listened to me quietly.'

'Didn't you go to the police?'

'First I had to tell Mrs. McNeil,' Capstick said. 'With her lawyer present, of course. But I had no opportunity. Patrick was soon well again, but Mrs. McNeil had also got the flu. She was an old lady, and it was enough to kill her. So she died, you see, before I could tell her.'

Pascoe kept his face expressionless. 'But what about her will, and the relations who would have inherited?'

'She had left her money to Patrick Aldermann,' Capstick said. 'The only person he had cheated was himself. In the end, I decided, there was no point in going to the police. I told him to leave, and I said I intended never to see him again. I miss him sometimes,' he added sadly. 'I should like to talk about roses with him again.'

As Pascoe got up to leave, he said, 'That must be the church where the Reverend Somerton was killed. Daphne Aldermann's father.'

'Yes,' Capstick said. 'Oliver Somerton was a good man. A little too serious in his ways, but a very good man.'

'You knew him? Of course, your company took care of his church accounts.'

'Yes,' Capstick said, 'but not just the church accounts. We looked after his own money, too. He was quite a rich man, as I expect you know.'

As Pascoe drove away, he could not help imagining the scene. Patrick Aldermann meeting the pretty young daughter, and then later finding some excuse to look at the account books to see how much money her father had.

Back at the station, he was surprised to find Sergeant Wield waiting for him with Shaheed Singh.

'Police Cadet Singh has something interesting to tell you, sir,' Wiold said.

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

очаровывать, страдать переутомлением, воображение, разум, тратить время на пустяки, выяснить информацию, грабители, вознаграждение, находиться на пенсии, инвалидное кресло, расследование (дознание) не было официальным, удовлетворить любопытство, посмотреть задумчиво, указать на сад, заслужить, быть нечестным, заведовать деньгами, обаятельный, доверять, грипп, осторожно и уверенно красть деньги, печально, отрицать, в присутствии адвоката, не иметь возможности, завещание, унаследовать, обманывать, представить эпизод (происшествие).

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Why did Pascoe call Detective Inspector Skelwith of Harrogate police?
2. What kind of facts did Pascoe discover from Herbert Capstick about Patrick Aldermann?
3. Who was Mrs. McNeil to Patrick Aldermann?
4. What was the reason of Mrs. McNeil's death?
5. Whom did Mrs. McNeil leave her will?
6. Did Capstick know Oliver Somerton? What was his attitude towards that man?

Task 3. Prepare the retelling of the chapter.

CHAPTER 10



Dalziel meets Penny Highsmith

Andrew Dalziel was bored. He didn't much like conferences. It was all right meeting old friends and having a few drinks with them, but apart from that he hadn't found much to interest him.

On his second afternoon in London he took a street map and set out to find Penelope Highsmith's flat. He found the house, and wandered around for a while, keeping an eye on the front door. He was lucky. He was just passing the building for the third time when a taxi stopped just outside and a woman got out. He recognized her at once. Tall and well-dressed, with thick black curly hair, she looked much younger than he had expected. He stopped, as if in sudden surprise.

'Penny?' he called. 'Is it really you, Penny Highsmith?'

'Yes,' the woman said. 'Who the hell are you?'

'Andy Dalziel,' he said. 'Do you remember me?'

'Of course. Weren't you in the police? You've put on weight.'

'Just a bit,' Dalziel said, smiling. 'I'm down here for a conference.'

'Still a policeman?'

'Yes.'

'Still married?' 'No.'

He waited.

'Coming in for a cup of tea, then?' she said.

Once inside her comfortable flat, he relaxed in a deep armchair and watched her as she moved around, making the tea.

She was much as he'd known her years before; warm, independent, cheerful - and very attractive. It's not fair, he thought. I've got old and fat, and she hasn't.

'Why did you leave Yorkshire?' he asked.

'I always intended to come back to London,' she told him. 'I only went to Yorkshire to look after Aunt Florence for a short while. Then she died, and I got the house and the money. By that time my son was at school. He loved Yorkshire.'

'Is he still there?'

'Oh yes. Still at Rosemont. He married a nice girl. They've got two children. I go up and visit sometimes, just for a day or two. I prefer my little flat here to that great big house.'

'I'm surprised you didn't sell it.'

'I nearly did,' she said. 'Patrick was just about to finish school and start work. It would have been a good time to make a move.'

'What happened to stop you?'

'The buyer died,' Penny Highsmith said.

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

тосковать (скучать), не говоря уже о (кроме), взять карту и отправиться найти к.-л., бродить вокруг некоторое время, глаз не спускать с (следить), узнать сразу же, вьющиеся волосы, набрать вес, привлекательная, не справедливо, намереваться вернуться, ухаживать за, продать, переехать.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Who did Andrew Dalziel meet in London?
2. Who was that woman?
3. Why didn't Penny Highsmith sell the Rosemont House?

Task 3. Prepare the retelling of the chapter.

CHAPTER 11

Who was Daphne meeting?

'You must tell us their names,' Wiold said.

Shaheed Singh felt capped, ashamed of being disloyal to his old friends, yet desperate to succeed in his job.

'Why?' he asked. 'I thought you were just interested in that Mrs. Aldermann.'

'Let us decide who or what we're interested in,' Wiold thundered. 'Your job is to obey orders!'

Why does he hate me so much? Singh thought miserably.

In fact, Wiold felt sorry for the boy. But Pascoe had spoken to Dalziel on the telephone, and Dalziel had decided the boy must be questioned.

'You've got to tell us,' Wiold said more gently. 'Maybe it won't be so serious for them, not if they can help us.'

Singh looked a little happier.

'I only know two of them,' he said. 'They were in my class at school. Mick Feaver and Jonty Marsh.'

'Feaver and Marsh,' Pascoe said. 'Do we know anything about them already?'

'Feaver's got no record,' Wiold said. 'Marsh has been in trouble once or twice. You'll know his brother Arthur. Got a record as long as your arm. Stealing from houses, mainly.'

'OK,' Pascoe said. 'I'll speak to Marsh first. Bring him in.'

Wiold watched quietly, admiring Pascoe's skill as he led the boy through his memories of what he had seen in the car park. Marsh remembered the BMW clearly, and its colour - dark blue.

'You're a good witness,' Pascoe said. 'Now, are you sure that the car the woman got out of was the car that got scratched?'

'Oh, yeah,' Marsh said. 'Dead certain.'

Pascoe said nothing, but let the boy realize for himself that his guilt was now clear.

Next, he talked to Mick Feaver. Mick remembered more details about the BMW. He also admitted that he had scratched Daphne's car.

Finally, Pascoe saw the two boys together.

'You have admitted damaging four cars,' he told them. 'This is serious, and we shall keep a record of it. However, you are both known to be of good character. One of my own officers tells me so. At the moment we shall go no further with this case. Please understand that you are very lucky, and keep out of trouble in future. Is that clear?'

'Yes, sir.' The boys were eager to escape.

When they had gone, Pascoe told Wield, 'You know, there's something very interesting about this dark blue BMW.'

'What's that, sir?'

'I know who it belongs to. I had to look at it recently because a garage door had fallen on it.' 'You mean it's Elgood's?'

'Yes. I've checked the description. It's definitely his.' 'Which means ...'

'Which means — knowing Dick Elgood's reputation with women - we can be sure of one thing. The day before he came to tell us Patrick Aldermann was trying to murder him, he'd been off at his holiday cottage, making love to Aldermann's wife!'

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word- combinations from the text:

чувствовать себя пойманным в ловушку, отчаянный, говорить гневно, выполнять приказы, допрашивать, иметь судимость, сидеть в тюрьме (конфликтовать с законом), грабить дома, восхищаться умениями, свидетель, быть абсолютно уверенным, вина, признаться, вести протокол, избегать неприятностей, стремиться удалиться (уйти), проверить описание, убить.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Who were Mick Feaver and Jonty Marsh?
2. How did they help the police?
3. Whom did the BMW belong to?

Task 3. Prepare the retelling of the chapter.

CHAPTER 12

End of an affair

Dick Elgood was totally relaxed, floating on his back in the warm sea.

If he raised his head, he could look across the beach to his holiday cottage, which stood near the edge of a cliff.

Twenty years ago, when he had bought the cottage, it had not been so near the edge, but every winter the sea brought more of the cliff crashing down onto the beach.

Elgood did not worry about that. He had no child to leave the cottage to. He had bought it cheaply. He was rather fascinated by its impermanence and the way the coast was always changing.

Here he could relax, with a woman friend or alone. Today he wanted to be alone. He had had to deal with a difficult meeting the day before. Times were hard, and some of his workers were to lose their jobs, but he had managed the situation well, and now this sunny day of peace was his reward.

Or perhaps not. A car was stopping by the cottage. He thought for a moment of hiding, but knew he must face her. It was Daphne Aldermann. He swam to the beach.

'Hello, love,' he said. 'This is a nice surprise. How did you know I was here?'

'Patrick was talking to Eric Quayle on the phone last night. He told him.'

Talking, were they, Elgood thought. Perhaps Patrick thought Quayle could get him onto the Board. Good thing he had made that

phone call to London yesterday. That should put a stop to Aldermann's little plan.

He smiled at Daphne. 'Come up to the cottage, love, and have a cup of coffee. How long can you stay?'

As they climbed the cliff path, Daphne said, 'Doesn't it frighten you, the sea getting closer every year? It's pretty here, but it's so impermanent.'

'Not like Rosemont, you mean? But even Rosemont won't last for ever. Nothing will. I like change. It doesn't worry me.'

Daphne made the coffee while he got dressed. As soon as they sat down, she said, 'Dick, I came to tell you that it's over between us.'

He wasn't surprised. She had never been really interested in him, he could tell. This was no disappointment, and he found it easy to smile and say, 'Well, we're still friends. We've hurt no one. Don't feel guilty about it.'

His affair with Daphne had been unplanned and unexpected.

He had met her when Aldermann joined the company as assistant to Chris Burke. He was charming to her, more from habit than because she attracted him, but he found her eager to meet him to discuss her husband's job and salary. He supposed that they were short of money. On several occasions he took her out for lunch.

Then Burke died, and Patrick took his job. Later, after Eagles had died, Elgood saw that Patrick hoped for a place on the Board, and knew that he didn't want him there. He was honest with Daphne, telling her how he felt. It was later the same day that he told Patrick, 'If you ever get a place on the Board, it'll be over my dead body!'

Dick Elgood did not expect to hear from Daphne again, but to his surprise she had telephoned, asking to see him. He had already planned a visit to his cottage next day, so he invited her to come with him. He was not sure she would come until the moment she had driven into the car park and jumped into his car.

All the way to the coast she talked nervously about Patrick. He still seemed to be so sure of success. It was as if he knew the future, knew for certain that he would be all right, and that he would always have Rosemont.

A few drinks at the cottage relaxed her, but she still looked worried and nervous when Elgood finally took her in his arms.

The next morning back at home the garage door had crashed down, narrowly missing him.

Now Daphne said, 'I'm really not the type to have an affair like this. I had to see you to make you understand. I felt so awful when the police came to ask questions about my car. I kept remembering those boys in the car park and wondering if they remembered me.'

The police were interested in your husband, not you, Elgood thought, but he could hardly tell her that!

'I must go in a minute. I feel better now we've talked,' Daphne said. 'I worry about such silly things. You know, recently I've met a woman and become friendly with her. She happens to be a policeman's wife. I like her a lot. She's really bright and independent. But I find myself waking up in the middle of the night thinking she's been told to spy on me!'

'Have you told Patrick about your new friend?' Elgood asked.

'Oh, yes. He wasn't bothered. He just told me to ask her and her husband to dinner.'

'What's her name?'

'Ellie Pascoe.'

To Daphne's horror, Elgood put his head in his hands and made a strange noise.

'Are you all right?' she asked in alarm.

'I wish I knew,' he said. 'Sit down again Daphne I've got something to tell you.'

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

плавать на спине, на краю утеса, рушиться с грохотом, быть очарованным непостоянством, столкнуться лицом к лицу (встретить), взбираться по обрывистой тропинке, быть разочарованным, роман, несколько раз, быть честным с к.-л., через

ч.-л. труп, дверь упала с треском, шпионить за к.-л., не быть обеспокоенным, к ее ужасу, спросить в смятении (тревоге).

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. What was the reason of Daphne Aldermann's visit to Mr. Elgood?
2. How did their affair begin?
3. Why didn't Daphne want to continue the affair? What troubled her?
4. Why did Elgood behave strange after hearing about Ellie Pascoe? Give your opinion.

Task 3. Act out the dialogue between Daphne Aldermann and Dick Elgood.

CHAPTER 13



Past death and a future burglary

Dalziel laughed loudly when Pascoe told him over the phone about Elgood and Daphne Aldermann.

'It doesn't surprise me,' he said, 'it's just like Dick. Typical. Gives Aldermann a motive, though. And it explains why Dick seems so sure Aldermann's trying to kill him.'

'It surprised me,' Pascoe said. 'Ellie's got to know Daphne Aldermann quite well, and she doesn't seem the type.'

'Ask your Ellie what she can find out about the Aldermann woman,' Dalziel said.

'I don't think she'd like it if I asked her to spy on her friend, sir!'

'Why ever not?' Dalziel asked, sounding surprised. 'Here's some more information for you,' he went on. 'Another death close to Aldermann. Someone who wanted to buy Rosemont from Penny Highsmith about the time Patrick left school. Edgar Masson's the Aldermanns' family lawyer. He could tell you the details.'

'Anything else?'

'Yes. Ask him about Florence Aldermann's will. I'm so bloody bored with this conference, Eve been out on the case instead. It seems Aunt Flo died without making a will. Another thing. Daphne's father

had plenty of money to leave, but he didn't leave it all to her. If Aldermann expected to get rich that way, he was disappointed!

'I'd best be going now,' he went on. 'Somebody's giving a talk on the part policewomen can play in community relations.'

'And you don't want to miss it, sir?' said Pascoe, surprised.

'Don't be daft, lad. It'll be finishing soon, and the fool who's giving it has left his office open. I'm using his phone. He's locked his whisky away, though. Awful what suspicious minds some people have.'

'Why is Andy so interested in this case?' Pascoe said later to Wield. 'Before he went to London, he told us not to waste time on it. Now he's full of it. Why?'

'Because he's met Mrs. Highsmith?' Wield suggested. 'Is he going to see her again soon?'

'I think he is,' Pascoe replied. 'Come on. Let's take a good look at what we already know.'

Wield listened, as Pascoe started to go through the list of events.

'1960. Mrs. Florence Aldermann died of a heart attack. There are no suspicious circumstances, unless we count the fact that there was no will, so Penny Highsmith inherited everything. A few years later, Penny tried to sell Rosemont, but the buyer died. I'm seeing her lawyer, Masson, later today to talk about that.'

'Now we jump forwards to 1971. The Reverend Oliver Somerton. Daphne Aldermann's father. He died in an accident at Little Leven church. There were no witnesses, which is always suspicious, but we know nothing else.'

'On to 1976. Mrs. Catherine McNeil. She died of flu, but we shouldn't be surprised by that. She was an old lady.'

'She's the one Aldermann had been robbing, isn't she?' Wield said. 'The one who left him her money?'

'That's her. It seems that Aldermann himself had flu, and while he was away from the office his boss found out about his little games with her money.'

'So Aldermann murdered her by sneezing over her and giving her flu,' Wield said. 'The sneeze as murder weapon. I must say it's an original sort of crime.'

'Let's leave the jokes to Mr. Dalziel, shall we, Sergeant?' said Pascoe, and the two men laughed.

'1979,' Pascoe went on. 'Christopher Burke died, the first of three of Elgood's employees to meet a sudden death.'

'Fell off a ladder, didn't he?' Wield said.

'Yes. Some workmen were doing some repairs to his house. It seems he came home in the middle of the afternoon and ran up the ladder to see how the repairs were going. His foot slipped, and he fell and broke his neck.'

'Where were the workmen? Weren't there any witnesses?'

'No. It had been raining, so the workmen had gone off to do an indoor job somewhere else. Burke's wife had gone out. When she came home, she found her husband lying there dead.'

'Strange,' Wield said.

'What?'

'Running up a ladder in the middle of the afternoon, after it had been raining. Why wasn't he at his office? Do we know whether he had been drinking?'

'No,' Pascoe said, 'but if he was drunk, it might explain everything. We ought to look into it, Sergeant.'

'Now,' he went on, 'we come to the final two deaths. Brian Bulmer, Elgood's financial director, crashed his car after the office party last Christmas. He was definitely drunk, I'm afraid. No one else was involved, and there were no witnesses.'

Timothy Eagles, the chief accountant, had a heart attack, and died at his desk. He was found next morning, sitting there with his coat on. He must have been getting ready to go home, when he was taken ill.'

'Aldermann was his assistant, wasn't he?' said Wield. 'Shared an office with him?'

'Yes,' said Pascoe. 'What are you suggesting, Sergeant?'

Wield said, imagine this. It's evening. Aldermann is about to leave the office. Everyone else has gone home. He finds Eagles at his

desk, having his heart attack. He doesn't call for help. He just closes the door on him, goes home and leaves him to die.'

Pascoe let out a long whistle. 'Very cold-blooded. You've met Aldermann. Do you think he could do a thing like that?'

'It's easier than murder,' Wield said.

Pascoe sighed deeply, i don't know, Sergeant. Is this all what Dalziel would call "a load of daft rubbish", or is there really something going on? I just don't know.'

Police Cadet Shaheed Singh wondered what Mick Feaver wanted. When the boy had first come up to him, as he was going into the Market Cafe, he had expected anger. Now, seeing the expression on Mick's face and the cut on his lip, he felt sorry for him.

'Like a cup of tea?' Singh said. He would be meeting Wedderburn in the cafe in five minutes, so there was just time to hear what Mick wanted first. The boy followed him silently through the door. Mrs Pascoe was there, Singh noticed, but she was on her own this time.

'Look, Shady,' Mick said, as they sat down with their cups of tea, 'thanks for saying what you did yesterday.'

'Saying what I did?'

'Yeah. That Pascoe, he said someone had put in a good word for us. I knew it must be you.' 'That's all right.'

'Nothing's going to happen about scratching those cars, is it?'

'No.'

'We both admitted it,' Mick Feaver said. 'Pascoe knows it was all of us. That Jonty Marsh, he wanted to say it was just me, to let me be the only one to get into trouble. You should hear what he calls you, too. He says you pretend to be friendly, then go straight back to the Police Station and tell them everything you've heard.'

'Is that what he says?'

'That black pig, he calls you. That black pig.'

Singh looked down at his tea in silence. These had been his friends. What a distance there was between them now. Suddenly he wished he were in his father's shop, among the familiar sounds and smells of home.

'Look what they did to me last night,' Mick went on, touching his lip. 'They don't dare lay a finger on you, but they aren't afraid to have a go at me.'

Singh looked up. Mrs. Pascoe was just going out of the door, he noticed, and Wedderburn was outside, talking to someone in the market.

'I've only got a moment,' he said, 'is there something you want to tell me?'

Mick Feaver spoke in a sudden rush, it's Jonty Marsh. He's been boasting about his brother, Arthur. Says he's got a really big job on. Says Arthur's taking him along, too.'

Shaheed Singh found that he could not look up and meet the boy's eyes. So this was his first informer - his old schoolfriend Mick Feaver.

'The other lads didn't believe Jonty, see. Thought he was just talking big. So Jonty gets mad at them, says if they don't believe him, they can read all about it in the newspapers. It's going to be the first weekend in July. They're going to break into a big house called Rosemont.'

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

выяснить (разузнять), шпионить (следить), семейный адвокат (юрист), быть сильно уставшим, рассчитывать разбогатеть таким образом, быть разочарованным, не будь глупцом, сомнительное мировоззрение, просмотреть список событий, умереть от сердечного приступа, обстоятельства, унаследовать, свидетель, подозрительный, грабить, чихать, заразить гриппом, орудие убийства, преступление, поскользнуться, сломать шею, издать свист, хладнокровный, груда безрассудного вздора, замолвить за к.-л. словечко, не посметь тронуть пальцем, пробовать силы на к.-л., говорить торопливо, хвастаться, информатор, хвастливо говорить (врать в три короба), проникнуть в дом.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Who would be helpful to Pascoe in investigating deaths close to Aldermann?
2. Why was Andy Dalziel interested in that case?
3. What events did the police get to know about? How was it connected with Patrick Aldermann?
4. Who was the informer of Shaheed Singh? Why?
5. What were Jonty Marsh and his brother planning to do?

Task 3. Prepare the retelling of the chapter.

CHAPTER 14

Daphne gets angry

Ellie was not in a very good temper when the phone rang.

Before becoming Rose's mother, Ellie had been a teacher. She was continuing to do a little teaching even now, with a small baby to look after. This morning she was trying to mark a pile of tests she had given her students, and was finding it difficult to concentrate on them. She should have been marking them instead of waiting for Daphne in the cafe - and then Daphne had not even bothered to come!

She picked the phone up.

'I want to see you!' Daphne's voice said.

'Do you? You should have been at the Market Cafe, then, when I was sitting waiting for you!'

'I'm coming to see you now,' Daphne said, and put the phone down.

She sounded cold and unfriendly.

A short time later, she was at the door.

Ellie had decided to meet her with a smile.

'I'm glad to see you. You don't know how bored I was, marking these tests!'

'No, I don't know,' Daphne said. 'I'm too stupid to know anything, aren't I? I suppose you think I've got too much money and not enough sense, but at least I don't go around spying on my friends!'

She was pink with anger. It made her look very pretty, Ellie thought.

'Please sit down, Daphne,' she said, 'and tell me what this is all about.'

'Don't pretend you don't know. Just tell me one thing. Did you know from the start that your husband was investigating mine?'

'Oh dear,' Ellie said. 'This is difficult.' 'It's a simple question.'

'No, it isn't. Let's go back to the beginning. I gave you a lift in my car because it was raining. I didn't know who you were then. I kept on meeting you because I found I liked you.'

'To your great surprise!'

'Well, yes,' Ellie said. 'You are different from my other friends. I suppose I was quite pleased that I could get on so well with someone like you.'

'You're avoiding the main question,' Daphne said sourly, but she looked a little more relaxed.

'When you told me your name, and where your husband worked, I realized that Peter was investigating him, but I didn't do anything about it. I didn't want to ruin our friendship. Also, I like to keep some things in my life separate from my husband. In any case, the investigation didn't sound very serious.'

'If you wanted to be my friend, how could you discuss me with your husband?'

'I talked about you as a friend, that's all,' Ellie said. 'Please believe me. I'm sorry you're so upset about all this. What's happened to make you so angry all of a sudden?'

'Can't you guess? After all, you know everything about me. Dick Elgood told me.'

'About what?'

'About that stupid complaint he made to the police. He told me your husband was on the case. Then Dick told him to stop the

investigation because it was all a silly mistake, but it's continuing, isn't it?"

'Yes,' Ellie said, 'I believe so. I don't know any details. You must believe me! But I don't understand. Why did Dick Elgood tell you this?'

'You really don't know?'

'No!'

'Then I'll tell you. When I parked my car, the day it was scratched, I was meeting Dick, to go to his cottage. I spent the day there with him.'

'Why, what did . . .' Ellie found herself unable to finish her question.

Daphne stared at her. 'I was having an affair with him. So you didn't know? How interesting that your husband hasn't told you. Or perhaps he doesn't know either. Will your deep friendship for me allow you to tell him, I wonder?'

She started to walk towards the door.

'Please stay, Daphne,' Ellie cried. 'We must talk some more.'

'Not now,' Daphne said coolly. 'Meet me tomorrow morning at the Chantry Coffee House. You can tell me then whether you've decided to tell your husband about me and Dick.'

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

не быть в хорошем расположении духа, выставить оценки, стопка контрольных работ, даже не побеспокоиться прийти, ее голос прозвучал холодно и недружелюбно, она порозовела от злости, притворяться, подвезти к.-л., избегать вопроса, сказать недовольно, разрушить дружбу, жалоба, глупая ошибка, пристально смотреть (уставиться).

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Why was Daphne Aldermann so angry with Ellie Pascoe?
2. What Ellie and Daphne were discussing?
3. What made Ellie be surprised?
4. Were there any chance to continue their friendship?

Task 3. Act out the dialogue between Daphne Aldermann and Ellie Pascoe.

CHAPTER 15



Pascoe goes visiting

Pascoe had quite a list of people to talk to. He wanted to see Masson, visit Capstick again, see Chris Burke's widow and talk to Elgood. And all for what? It could just be a waste of time.

First on the list was Masson, the Aldermanns' family lawyer.

The old man had reached the age when he was only too happy to talk to any visitor. All Pascoe had to do was listen, and every now and then guide the conversation back to the points he was interested in.

He learned that at the time of Florence Aldermann's death she had planned to change her will, and leave more money to her niece, Penelope Highsmith. Her original will left nearly everything to an animal charity and a church society, and only a very small amount of money to her niece. Then she had asked Penny to live at Rosemont and help look after the house, and, because of this, intended to increase her share of the money to forty per cent. However, she died before the new will could be made, and the old will was never found. Masson believed Mrs. Aldermann had destroyed it herself, expecting to make a new one in a few days' time.

After Florence Aldermann's death, Masson had continued to act as lawyer for Penny. Pascoe asked him about the time when Penny had tried to sell Rosemont. A buyer had been found, but he had died before the sale could be completed.

'What did he die of?' Pascoe asked, hoping for a car accident in another country.

Masson's answer was worse than he would have believed possible.

'Poison,' said the old lawyer, enjoying the effect his answer caused.

It seemed that the man, who had been staying at a hotel, had eaten poisoned fruit. Perhaps he had picked an apple from a tree which had been treated with pesticide; perhaps it was the hotel's fault. Nobody knew. On the day he died he had been out in the country, but had stopped at Rosemont to discuss something about the sale with Penny Highsmith.

After that, Penny stopped trying to sell the house and moved to London. She divided the inheritance into two parts, kept the money, and gave Rosemont to Patrick, who was then a young man in his first job. Everyone expected him to sell the house, but instead he changed his name to Aldermann, and had been living at Rosemont ever since.

Here was plenty to think about, and Pascoe also had the feeling that, despite the old lawyer's willingness to talk, he had in fact said much less than he could have done. However, there were more calls to make. Second on his list was another visit to Little Leven, to talk to Mr. Capstick.

Capstick was not at home, but his housekeeper was. Pascoe decided to ask her some questions instead.

'Can I ask you about the day the Reverend Somerton was killed? I know it was more than ten years ago, but perhaps you remember it.'

'Yes,' she said. 'I was here.'

'Mr. Capstick was not at home that day, I understand.'

'No.'

'Was anyone else here?'

'Yes. The young man who used to look after the roses.' Pascoe's heart raced with excitement. 'The roses? That was Mr. . . .?'

'Aldermann, his name was. He took wonderful care of the roses. All I had to do was let him into the garden and leave him there.'

'Do you remember what time he left?' 'About four, I think.'

The Reverend Somerton's body had been discovered at four forty-five.

'Could I look at the garden?' Pascoe asked.

Among the flowers and overgrown bushes he found the little path, and the gate which opened into the church-yard. He stood silently among the graves. Death, he thought, was not the end of everything. The old must always give way to the new. Men died, and their bodies returned to the earth they came from, but new lives began, and year after year, century after century, the village lived on.

He knew all he needed to about Little Leven. It was time for his third visit.

He found Mrs. Mandy Burke lying in a chair in her garden, enjoying the sun and a cool drink. She was wearing a bikini which left little to the imagination. Although well into her forties, she was still a good-looking woman, and one who clearly enjoyed life.

'Come and sit down,' she said, 'and let me pour you a drink.'

'Thank you, Mrs. Burke,' said Pascoe. The iced fruit juice looked just what he needed on this hot afternoon, and he took a long swallow of it. It hit his throat like fire, making him spill some of it on his shirt as he coughed and gasped for breath. The 'juice' seemed to be at least half vodka.

'I'm so sorry,' Mandy Burke said. 'I should have warned you. Is it true you're not allowed to drink on duty? How very naughty of me to forget.'

'Never mind,' said Pascoe firmly, putting his glass down. 'Now I'm afraid I must ask you some questions about your husband's death, Mrs. Burke.'

'Mandy,' she said. 'Do call me Mandy. Why do you want to ask me about poor old Chris after all this time? Don't think I'm hard-hearted, Inspector - or may I call you Peter? - but I've put all that behind me now. Life must go on, you know!'

She smiled at him over her glass.

'We're just making some routine enquiries,' Pascoe said. 'It won't take long. Would you mind telling me exactly what happened?'

'He climbed up a ladder,' she told him. 'We had some men here, doing some repairs to the house, but they weren't here that afternoon. I think Chris went up the ladder to check how much they'd done, his foot slipped and he fell. I was out at the time, and when I got home I found him just lying there, dead. He died instantly, Peter. At least that was some comfort to me.'

She wiped her eyes, and took a long drink.

'Isn't it hot?' she said. 'Do take your jacket off.'

'No. I must be going soon,' Pascoe said. 'Your husband was assistant to the chief accountant at Elgood Ceramics, wasn't he? Tell me, did you get to know any of his colleagues at all well?'

'Well,' she said, 'we used to have dinner with Tim Eagles and his wife from time to time, and Mr. Elgood was quite friendly. He was Chris's boss, of course. Chris didn't like Patrick Aldermann, the one who got his job. There'd been stories about him leaving a company after some sort of trouble. Chris never gossiped, but he didn't like what he heard about Mr. Aldermann. He was a very straight man, was Chris, very honest.' She looked into her empty glass. 'Oh look, the drink's all gone. I'll just go into the kitchen and mix up some more.'

She stood up, nearly fell, and put one hand on Pascoe's shoulder to save herself.

Alarmed by this, he pulled back, and almost fell out of his chair.

'Careful!' she said. 'You haven't torn your trousers, have you? If you have, don't worry. I'm wonderful with a needle. I can sew them up so neatly, your wife will never notice they've been torn.'

'No, no, I'm fine,' Pascoe said. 'I really must be going now. Many thanks for all your help, Mrs. Burke.'

He was glad to escape, but he had an uneasy feeling that, drunk and foolish as she was, Mandy Burke had told him only those things that she wanted him to know.

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

вдова, трата времени, достигнуть возраста, привести разговор к ч.-л., благотворительность животным, увеличить денежную долю, уничтожить завещание, осуществить торговую сделку, отравы (яд), обработано пестицидами, вина, наследство, готовность общаться, домохозяйка, быть убитым, сердце забилося от волнения, тело было обнаружено, заросшие кустарники, могилы, столетие за столетием, налить выпить, сделать длинный глоток, пролить, кашлять и судорожно глотать воздух, следовало бы предупредить, как нехорошо с моей стороны, бессердечный, наводить справки (выполнять обычное расследование), умереть мгновенно, осушить слезы, сплетничать, быть встревоженным, зашить аккуратно.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. What kind of information did Peter Pascoe know from the Aldermann's family lawyer?
2. Why wasn't Rosemont sold?
3. What caused the death of Rosemont's buyer?
4. Who was the second on Pascoe's list to visit?
5. What kind of facts were discovered from Mr. Capstick's housekeeper?
6. Whom was Pascoe's third visit directed to?
7. Were there any details of Mr. Burke's death?
8. Did Mrs. Burke know Patrick Aldermann?

Task 3. Act out the dialogue between:

- a) Masson, the Aldermann's family lawyer and Pascoe.
- b) Mr. Capstick's housekeeper and Pascoe.
- c) Mrs. Burke and Pascoe.

CHAPTER 16

More about Dick Elgood's love affairs

Pascoe wasn't sure what to think when Shaheed Singh came to him with his story about Mick Feaver and the planned burglary at Rosemont.

Dalziel, however, was full of enthusiasm when Pascoe told him about it over the phone.

'It's just the excuse you need to get back to Rosemont and I have a good nose around,' he said. 'Tell them you need to check all the locks and windows. You never know what you might find out.'

Pascoe told him about his visits to Masson, Capstick, and Mandy Burke.

Dalziel asked several questions, then said, 'Does Masson think Penny destroyed her Aunt Flo's will?'

'I did wonder . . .' Pascoe said cautiously.

'I'm seeing her again on Friday night. I'll see what I can find out. And talking of wills, this Burke woman looked comfortable, did she?'

'Very,' said Pascoe. 'I think she's OK financially, too.'

'Don't be dirty, lad. You have a look into Mandy Burke's finances - see if there's anything that smells interesting.'

'I don't think he's been at that conference much,' Pascoe remarked to Wield. 'He seems to be much more interested in Mrs. Highsmith at the moment.'

Pascoe's next job was to see Dick Elgood. It was immediately clear that Elgood was not pleased to see him.

'I told you to drop the case,' he said, 'but I hear you're still carrying on with your investigation.'

'I've got a job to do,' Pascoe said. 'Once we've started investigating a crime, we can't just stop suddenly.'

'Even if you have to ask your wife to spy on people?' said Elgood unpleasantly.

'You'd better explain that remark,' Pascoe said quietly. 'Was it just by chance that your wife first spoke to Mrs. Aldermann the day after I came to see you?'

'I wonder how you know so much about Mrs. Aldermann,' Pascoe said. 'Let me tell you what we know about her. We know that the day before you came to see me you spent the day with Mrs. Aldermann at your holiday cottage.'

'I won't deny that. My private life is my own business.' 'You made it mine when you came to tell me her husband was trying to kill you,' Pascoe said.

'You mean Aldermann might be jealous? Rubbish! His roses are all he cares about. If I tried to take those away from him, he might get jealous!'

'Isn't that what you're trying to do by keeping him off your Board of Directors?'

'Maybe.' Elgood was suddenly serious. 'I'm doing what's best for the company. It will all be arranged at the Board meeting next week, when Aldermann is out of the way, visiting that fancy school he sends his boy to.'

'You'll wait until he's out of the way, yet you say you're not afraid of him?'

'No. I want you to forget all that. How many times do I have to tell you?'

Pascoe was about to leave, when the phone rang.

'It's for you,' Elgood said. 'Make it short. Some of us have got work to do.'

It was Sergeant Wield with some urgent information for Pascoe. Wield had been looking into Mandy Burke's finances. She ran her own small business, which was doing well. This was hardly surprising, as she had received a lot of help and advice from a well-known local businessman.

Pascoe put down the phone and turned to Elgood. 'I'm afraid I have one more question to ask you, Mr. Elgood,' he said. 'What exactly is or was your relationship with Mrs. Mandy Burke?'

To his surprise, Elgood gave in immediately.

'I may as well tell you,' he said, suddenly looking tired and old. 'You obviously know all about it. I've done nothing

that's against the law. I'll tell you the truth. I was having an affair with Mandy Burke. She used to go to the cottage with me.'

He went on, 'We met in town by accident that day. We had lunch together, and then she suggested we went to her house. I thought it was too risky, but there was no stopping her! When I saw the workmen's ladder, I wanted to go immediately, but she said they'd finished for the day, and wouldn't be coming back.'

'Well, to cut a long story short, we were in the bedroom when we heard a noise. Before I could stop her, Mandy ran to the window. She's like that, never thinks before she acts. She pulled back the curtains, and there was poor old Chris at the top of the ladder, like a monkey on a stick! I'll never forget his face. Mandy gave a great scream, and he fell. We rushed out, but he was lying there, stone dead. We were shocked, Pascoe, believe me. Neither of us wanted to see poor old Chris Burke dead, but we had to protect ourselves. Didn't want the story all over the Sunday papers.'

'So you lied to the police.'

'He fell off a ladder. That was true.'

'I'll have to report this.'

'I won't repeat what I've just told you,' Elgood said. 'I'll deny everything. Mandy won't tell you anything, either. And, for God's sake, drop this Aldermann business, will you?'

While Peter Pascoe was talking to Dick Elgood, Ellie was sitting in the Chantry Coffee House with Rose, waiting for Daphne Aldermann. Daphne was late.

Ellie had decided to leave, when suddenly Daphne appeared at the door, rather pink in the face, as though she had been hurrying.

'I'm sorry I'm late,' she said. 'I forgot my purse, and had to go back home. When I got there, I found a man in the garden, who said he was from the water company. He said he'd come to deal with a problem with the pipes to our house. I don't know what he was talking about. I don't think there is a problem. Anyway, I got rid of him, and —'

'Daphne,' Ellie interrupted, 'i shouldn't really tell you this, but Peter told me last night that there have been a lot of break-ins at big houses recently. He's been informed that Rosemont is on the thieves' list. It may not be true. He's going to come and see you about it.'

Daphne looked so alarmed that Ellie was almost sorry she had spoken.

Then Daphne said, 'I suppose you were discussing me and what I told you yesterday.'

'No. Honestly, I haven't told Peter anything,' Ellie said. 'He told me he was going to see Mr. Elgood today, but I don't know why. Please believe me. We haven't been discussing you.'

'i believe you,' Daphne said. 'I must say I find it hard to imagine you as a police spy. Look, I've decided I want to tell you all about Dick and me, and about Patrick too.'

'Are you sure?'

'Yes. Not here, though. Let's go for a walk, if you don't mind.'

They left the Chantry Coffee House and walked around a quiet park in the sunshine as Daphne talked.

'I was worried about Patrick. It's difficult to explain why. He seems so sure all the time that he will get everything he wants. I don't know if he is hiding anything from me or not. Do you know why I started meeting Dick? Because I wanted to talk about Patrick, to find out how things were at work. Then, one lunch-time, Dick told me he didn't want Patrick on his Board of Directors.

'Then I began to worry about our financial position - the costs of our house and gardens are huge. I'd always left all that to Patrick. I knew I had some money from Daddy, and Patrick had some from his aunt, and from an old lady whose money he used to manage when he worked in Harrogate. We should have been able to manage all right, but suddenly I felt I had to know the details. So I challenged Patrick.

'Imagine how I felt, when he told me calmly that the money had all gone. We were in real financial difficulties, even

though he had a good salary as chief accountant. Yet he told me everything would be all right. I screamed at him that he could forget his dream of being on the Board of Elgoods. He said it didn't matter. I said we would have to sell Rosemont. He told me that would never be necessary. I was afraid of him then. He seemed crazy.

'I rang Dick. I wanted to talk to him about Patrick. Dick asked me to go to the cottage with him. Of course I knew he took his women there, but I agreed. He listened to me. He was kind to me, charming in a rather old-fashioned way. Later, I realized I had frightened him. He thought I was warning him that Patrick got rid of people who were in his way, so he ran off to tell the police.'

'Yes,' Ellie said. 'He saw Peter.'

'Surely Peter doesn't think Patrick has done anything wrong? The way you describe Peter, he sounds such a sensible man.'

Ellie did not answer Daphne's question.

'You'll have a chance to meet Peter soon,' she said. 'He wants to see you and Patrick before you both go away next week.'

'Fine,' Daphne said. 'He can come and see us on Saturday.'

The two women left the park in a state of friendship which they both knew might turn out to be the calm before the storm.

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

ходить всюду и высматривать, осторожно (осмотрительно), не будь подлым, отмечать (замечать), прекратить дело в суде (отозвать иск), расследовать преступление, замечание, отрицать, ревновать, вздор (ерунда), срочная информация, управлять малым предприятием, уступать (сдаться), противозаконно, случайно встретиться, короче говоря, издать крик, быстро выбежать, лежать без признаков жизни, солгать полиции, избавиться от к.-л., прерывать (разговор), кража со взломом (проникновение), выглядеть встревоженной, прогуляться, финансовое положение

дел, сомневаться в к.-л., иметь хороший оклад, казаться обезумевшим, разумный человек, затишье перед бурей.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Why did Pascoe want to pay a visit to Dick Elgood?
2. What kind of facts were discovered about Chris Burke's death?
3. Why did Daphne and Ellie meet in the Chantry Coffee House?
4. What made Daphne be alarmed?
5. What were two friends discussing?

Task 3. Prepare the retelling of the chapter.

CHAPTER 17



Dalziel has a wonderful time

Penny Highsmith enjoyed her food and drink, but she could not compete with Andy Dalziel, with whom she was having dinner at a restaurant. The amount of good red meat and good red wine he was working his way through had the waiters staring in disbelief.

He was also enjoying being in the company of an attractive and intelligent woman, and he told Penny so.

'I'm so glad, Andy,' she said. 'I had been wondering if you found me again just by chance, or whether there was some deliberate plan behind it.'

'You mean we were supposed to meet? Written in the stars? That sort of thing?'

'Not exactly. Police investigations are more what I was thinking. But now I see you enjoying yourself so much, I don't believe you can be pretending.'

'Of course not. I'm having a wonderful time.'

'Good. Of course, I did check on you with Patrick, when I saw him yesterday.'

'Oh,' Dalziel said, surprised. 'Did he stay long?'

'No. He never does. We've never been terribly close.'

'Sorry. But it must have been hard.'

'Some people were less than kind to me, but it wasn't so bad. Aunt Flo and Uncle Eddie were very generous.'

'And then she left you Rosemont and all that money. Were you surprised when you heard the will?'

He watched her carefully. He had been thinking about Pascoe's discussion with Masson, and he had some ideas of his own.

'There was no will,' Penny said. 'I inherited because I was her only living relation.'

'And Patrick, of course.'

'Oh yes. Patrick always loved Rosemont. Aunt Flo was the ambitious one. She wanted the big house. Eddie wasn't interested in that, but he loved the gardens, especially the roses.'

'Just like Patrick.'

'Oh yes. I prefer London. There's more life here. I'm a city girl, myself.'

'Patrick must have been upset when your uncle died.'

'He was,' she said, 'although he never shows things like that. I think he loved Eddie more than he loved me. I tried to tell him that we might not be going to Rosemont again, after Eddie died, but it was strange, he took no notice of me. He was sure he would be staying at Rosemont forever. And of course he was right. But why are we talking about all this?'

'Just passing the time. So Aunt Flo dropped dead in the rose garden, and fortunately for you she had just torn up her will.'

Immediately her face changed. Her black curls shook with anger.

'What are you saying? That I destroyed the will? Is that it?' Her voice had risen almost to a shout and people were looking at them, but it was impossible to embarrass Dalziel.

'Well, didn't you? No one would blame you if you did.'

Penny sprang to her feet, almost knocking over her chair.

'You fat pig!' she shouted. 'You don't change! I'm not staying here with you another moment!'

He watched her disappear through the door. Then he paid the bill, and picked up her bag, which she had left on a chair.

In the street, he called a taxi and got into it, leaving the door open. In a second Penny appeared, and got into the taxi too.

'Can I have my bag?' was all she said.

At the door to her flat she tried to go in alone, but Dalziel put his shoulder in the door.

'Listen,' he said. 'I've really enjoyed this evening. It's been grand. Thank you.'

She gave him a puzzled look.

'What are you really after?'

'Friendship. That's all. Look, just let me come in and check your flat for burglars. London is a dangerous place for a woman to live on her own.'

She laughed, so he went ahead.

'Seems OK,' he said. 'I'll just check the bedroom.'

With the confidence of someone who is not expecting trouble, he opened the door. The man standing behind the door hit him hard on the nose, then rushed past to the front door, knocking Penny to the floor as he went.

Dalziel's eyes filled with water. As he rubbed them, he saw Penny struggling to get up. Her lovely black hair seemed to have moved somehow, and underneath it other hair, short and grey, could be seen.

'Are you all right?' he asked.

'Yes, even though you're still here! What should I do, call the police?'

'I am the police, remember?' Dalziel said. He helped her up and they went round the flat. The burglar had been neat, and did not seem to have taken anything. Dalziel advised her to change her door locks. Then he took off his tie and sat down.

'What do you think you're doing?' Penny protested.

'I can't leave you all alone after a shock like that,' he said, 'now can I? You need a friend with you at a time like this.'

For a moment she looked angry. Then she smiled, took off the black wig, and ran her fingers through her short grey hair. Suddenly, she looked fifteen years older.

'I can take my teeth out, too,' she said.

'Grand, love,' Dalziel said. 'I was afraid I might be too old for you.'

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

конкурировать (соревноваться), быть в недоумении, случайно, продуманный план, иметь ввиду, не быть близкими, воспитывать (растить), заниматься своим делом, быть щедрым, унаследовать, сбить с толку, винить (обвинять), оплатить счет, это было чудесно, взглянуть в недоумении, проверить квартиру, сильно ударить в нос, сбить с ног, прикладывать усилия (чтобы встать), сменить дверные замки, снять парик.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. What were Penny Highsmith and Andy Dalziel discussing at dinner?
2. Did Andy suspect her in changing the will?
3. What had happened in Penny's flat?

Task 3. Prepare the retelling of the chapter.

CHAPTER 18

Everything is explained - or is it?

Daphne Aldermann got up on Saturday morning with a feeling that an important decision would be made that day.

Since talking with Ellie Pascoe, she had spent a lot of time thinking about her marriage. She had decided that it was time to be open and honest with Patrick if they were to have a future together. She was waiting for him to come home from his two days in London. He had rung to say that he would be home mid-morning.

As Patrick came through the door, however, she realized immediately that this was not the right time for a serious discussion. He was smiling, looking happier and more relaxed than he had for a long time, and carrying a beautiful bunch of roses.

They were golden roses, edged with pink, and they had a sweet, delicate perfume.

'Darling, they're beautiful. But I can't imagine you buying roses!' Daphne said. 'What are they?'

'Look at the label.'

The name on the label was 'Daphne Aldermann'. Daphne stared at it, puzzled.

'Don't you remember?' Patrick said. 'Years ago, I said one day I'd create a lovely new rose, and I'd give it your name. It's taken me six years, but now here it is!' He was laughing with excitement and happiness.

'It's wonderful!' Daphne said. 'Patrick, I'm so . . .'

'That's not all,' he went on. 'This rose is going to be grown commercially. It will be on sale everywhere. And I've written a book all about it, which will be sold at the same time. It's what I've always wanted.'

'And you kept all this a secret. It's quite a shock to find out about it now,' Daphne said slowly.

'I didn't want to say anything until I knew it would all be a success.'

Everything was clear now, Daphne thought. His strange, secretive behavior, the way he seemed so sure of the future. She hadn't understood what was happening. She'd gone to Dick Elgood. He'd gone to the police. It was all her fault, all of it.

'There's money in this rose and in the book,' Patrick said. 'It means I can tell Dick Elgood I don't want to be on his Board of Directors. Oh, I know he doesn't want me, anyway. I'll stay in my present job and have more time for my roses and my book.'

'Oh Patrick, I'm so glad!' Daphne said. She wondered how she could have been so foolish. This would be a fresh start for them both.

They were in the middle of a long and passionate kiss when the door bell rang. In alarm, Daphne remembered that the police were calling to discuss the possible burglary. She hurriedly explained all this to Patrick, and then went to open the door.

When Peter Pascoe and Sergeant Wield came into the room, Pascoe was surprised by the warm and friendly atmosphere. It was the first time he had seen Daphne. He found her beautiful, and, as Ellie had said, very attractive. Both she and Patrick seemed so relaxed and happy; he guessed that something unusual had just happened.

'We've checked with the water company,' Pascoe told them. 'They haven't sent anyone to your house, so I'm afraid we are expecting an attempted break-in. I need to look at your security arrangements and check every room in the house.'

Daphne took him around the house, while Patrick talked to Sergeant Wield in the living-room. When they were upstairs, Daphne told Pascoe everything, about Patrick's success with the new rose, her mistaken ideas about him, and her affair with Elgood.

'But now everything will be all right,' she finished. 'Patrick is going to tell Dick Elgood he isn't interested in his Board of Directors.'

'I see,' Pascoe said. 'Well, it never seemed much of a motive for murder. And Mr Aldermann has never seemed a particularly ambitious man.'

'Or the type to murder people, I hope!' Daphne said.

Pascoe smiled. He did not want to tell her that the most charming people are sometimes killers.

'I'm pleased for you,' he said. 'Ellie will be pleased, too.'

His pleasure at Aldermann's success was real. His investigations had shown him that the man had bad financial problems. Now they would be over. He liked Daphne, and was happy to think that Ellie had chosen her as a friend.

As he and Wield moved towards the front door, the phone rang and Daphne went to answer it. 'It's for you, darling,' she called to Patrick. 'It's Dick Elgood.' Patrick went over to the phone.

At the front door, Daphne gave Pascoe her hand.

'I hope we'll see more of you and Ellie,' she said. 'I'd like that,' Pascoe replied.

Back at the Police Station, Dalziel was also in a good mood. First, he had congratulated Shaheed Singh on his good work with Mick Feaver. Second, he had had a most interesting talk with Penny Highsmith's lawyer, Edgar Masson. After hearing Pascoe's report on Masson, Dalziel had asked the old lawyer to come and see him. They had known each other for a long time, and Dalziel had decided to try the 'old friends' approach on him.

'You must have suspected that Mrs Highsmith had destroyed Florence Aldermann's will,' he told Masson. 'Why did you do nothing about it?' He refilled Masson's whisky glass.

'Because that way justice would be done,' the old lawyer said. 'I see that I must explain something to you, Mr. Dalziel, but it must not go beyond these four walls. I was absolutely certain that, when Eddie Aldermann died three years previously, Florence had deliberately destroyed his will.'

'Why would she do that? Surely he had left her most of his money? I mean, she *was* his wife.'

'He was the kindest and fairest of men. Of course he left most of his property to his wife. But he also left a large amount to Penelope Highsmith, for her son Patrick to have when he was older. Do you understand what I'm trying to tell you, Mr. Dalziel?'

'Say it. Straight out with it.'

'Eddie Aldermann was Patrick's father.'

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

принять важное решение, букет роз, быть озадаченным, в промышленном масштабе, продаваться, держать в секрете, скрытое поведение, начало с нуля, страстный поцелуй, попытка совершить кражу со взломом, меры по обеспечению безопасности, быть в хорошем настроении, сближаться, подозревать, уничтожить завещание, наполнить стакан, правосудие (справедливость), намеренно.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. What did Daphne want to discuss with her husband?
2. What kind of secret was revealed in their family?
3. Why was Daphne Aldermann blaming herself?
4. Was Patrick Aldermann still interested in the Board of Directors? Why?
5. What was the purpose of police's visit to Rosemont?
6. Why did Mr. Elgood want to meet Penny Highsmith's lawyer?
7. What kind of secret was discovered?

Task 3. Prepare the retelling of the chapter.

CHAPTER 19



Dick Elgood gives a party

That Saturday had begun well for Dick Elgood. At eleven o'clock he was sitting in his office, waiting for a visitor.

The visitor wore dark glasses and a hat, so that he would be difficult to recognize. Daphne had seen him, and he had pretended to be from the water company. Dalziel had surprised

him at Penny Highsmith's flat. He was Raymond Easey, a private detective.

Easey's job had been to gather evidence of Patrick Aldermann's financial difficulties. He had done that well, and he had done more than that. He had followed Aldermann to a London flat, discovered that it belonged to his mother, and waited until he had seen her go out with a fat man. Then he had searched the flat and found an interesting document - Florence Aldermann's will.

Dick Elgood was clearly delighted to see the will.

'Do you think she'll realize it's gone?' he asked.

'I don't think so. People put something in a safe place, and then forget where it is.'

Easey was right. The will really had been lost after Aunt Florence's death. Then Penny had found it, and put it away while she decided what to do. Her lawyer, Masson, had suggested that the lack of a will meant that she would get the money Eddie had wanted her to have. She thought about it. The will remained hidden. Finally, she forgot all about it.

Elgood paid Easey a large amount of money, and when the detective had left, he telephoned Patrick Aldermann.

'Listen to me,' he said. 'I've got a document here that would interest you. It's a will. It seems that that great big house and garden of yours have never really belonged to you at all.'

There was a long pause. Then Patrick said calmly, 'I'd be interested to see this document. Are you at your office? Can I come and see it now?'

Easey had gone, and Elgood was alone in the building.

'No,' he said. 'Don't do that. I'm leaving the office now, but I'll be at the cottage tomorrow. I'm having a lunch party. Why don't you come? Bring the family. Oh, and bring a letter, too, saying you withdraw from your attempt to get a place on the Board.'

'Certainly,' Patrick said politely. 'Where exactly is the cottage?'

'Ask Daphne,' Elgood said. 'She'll know where it is.'

Afterwards, he thought that that had been an unnecessary, and possibly unwise, remark to make. Then he put it out of his mind. He made a copy of the will, and locked the original in a drawer in his desk. Then he started phoning people to invite them to lunch. Among his guests were his old friend Andy Dalziel and Dalziel's young Inspector, Peter Pascoe.

The following day was hot, and the guests at the party spent much of their time lying on the beach in the sun or swimming. Most of the children had taken off their clothes, and the women wore only the briefest of bikinis. Even Dalziel had taken off his jacket.

'Look at Andy!' Ellie whispered to Pascoe. 'That nose looks terrible. Do you really believe that story about a burglar in Patrick's mother's flat? I think it was really Penny herself who hit him!'

'I don't think so,' Pascoe said. 'From what I've heard, I think she and Andy rather enjoyed meeting each other again.'

Daphne came out of the sea and threw herself down on the beach next to Ellie. 'Isn't this lovely?' she said.

'Yes,' said Ellie. 'You look very happy today, Daphne. I'm so glad everything seems to be going well for you and Patrick.'

'Yes. It's like a story with a happy ending for us!'

Elgood was an attentive host, moving among his guests with a word and a smile for everyone, but he did not stop until he reached Patrick Aldermann.

'Patrick, come up to the cottage with me,' he said. 'I've been trying to make a little garden here, but I can't get anything to grow. If anyone can advise me, you can.'

'Of course,' Patrick said. 'It will be a pleasure.'

The two men went together across the beach and up the cliff path. Dalziel watched them go.

'True friendship,' he said in Pascoe's ear. 'Do you good to see it. What's that rubbish you're drinking?'

'Actually, sir, it's a very pleasant wine I'm taking to Ellie,' Pascoe said.

'That's another thing. When I was married, I'd never have let my wife lie around on a beach in one of those bikini things.' He gave a loud and unpleasant laugh.

'Well, it's too hot for me here. I'm going to find somewhere cool, inside. Sun boils your brains, you know. That's why most foreigners are half daft.'

Pascoe sighed. It was clear that too much whisky, as well as too much sun, was affecting Dalziel. He took Ellie her drink, and then followed his boss up the cliff path.

Patrick Aldermann was standing alone in the doorway of the cottage.

'Where's Dick?' asked Dalziel.

'Having a shower,' Patrick told him.

'Why does he want a shower? He's just been in the sea, hasn't he?' said Dalziel, and he pushed past Patrick and went into the kitchen to see what he could find in Elgood's fridge.

Pascoe caught Aldermann's eye, and the two men smiled.

'Let me give you these now,' Aldermann said, handing Pascoe a bunch of keys. They had arranged, during Pascoe's visit to Rosemont, that while Patrick and Daphne were away, the police would wait in the house at night, hoping to catch the burglars red-handed.

'Thank you,' Pascoe said. 'We'll take great care of your house, sir. And the garden, of course. You're leaving in the morning, I believe?'

'Yes. Look, please don't call me "sir". Our wives have become so friendly with one another. Call me Patrick.'

Pascoe smiled. 'Thank you, Patrick. And you must call me Peter.'

At that moment Elgood came into the hall, and took Patrick out into the garden.

'One of your problems here is salt, of course,' Patrick told him, 'and another is insects. You need to do something about them, or they'll eat everything you plant.'

'Oh, I've got some stuff for them,' Elgood said. He took Patrick back into the cottage and showed him a large box full of bottles.

Patrick bent over to look. 'You've got enough chemicals here to kill all the insects in Yorkshire!' he said disapprovingly. 'This is dangerous stuff. You shouldn't leave it where children could find it.'

'All right, all right,' Elgood said, rather annoyed. 'I'll put it somewhere safe.'

He reached up and opened a small door in the ceiling. A folding ladder came down.

'There's some space up there by the water tank,' he said. 'I had to get a new tank when I had the shower put in.'

He carried the box up the ladder.

'Satisfied now?' he said to Patrick.

'Nice place you've got here, Dick,' Dalziel said, coming out of the kitchen with a glass in his hand. 'Just the right size for a loving couple.'

'Remind me to invite you some time, Andy,' Elgood replied.

The rolls of fat on Dalziel's stomach shook with laughter. 'That would really give people something to gossip about!' he said. 'You staying here tonight, Dick?'

'No. I've got to be in the office early tomorrow. I'll be here again on Tuesday night. I like to have a swim and relax here before a really important meeting.'

He gave Patrick a pitying look, which Pascoe thought was rather unpleasant of him.

Meanwhile, on the beach, Daphne was saying to Ellie, 'I think for the first time I really understand Patrick. Everything is so wonderful at the moment. I can't tell you how happy we are.'

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

частный детектив, собрать доказательства (данные), обыскать квартиру, отсутствие завещания, отказаться от, позже (впоследствии), лечь на землю, внимательный хозяин, настоящая

дружба, быть слабоумным (безрассудным), вздохнуть, связка ключей, поймать грабителей с поличным, насекомые, смесь, нагнуться, ядохимикаты, сказать неодобрительно, опасный состав (смесь), складная лестница, бак для воды, тем временем.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. What was Raymond Easey?
2. Who was the private detective hired by? Why?
3. What kind of information was known about Patrick Aldermann?
4. Where was Aunt Florence's real will?
5. Whom did Elgood want to invite to his party? Why?
6. Who else was presented at the party?
7. What kind of events had happened at Elgood's cottage?

Task 3. Act out the dialogue between:

- a) Mr. Elgood and Mr. Aldermann (on the phone).
- b) Patrick Aldermann and Peter Pascoe.
- c) Patrick, Elgood and Dalziel.

CHAPTER 20



Shaheed Singh sees some action

Wield and Singh sat in silence in one of the bedrooms at Rosemont. The night air was perfumed by the hundreds of roses below them in the gardens.

Pascoe and another man were also in the house, while two others were outside in a car.

Singh was nervous, wide-awake and eager for his first taste of action. Wield was bored. Slowly, the hours passed.

When it was light, Pascoe came into the room. He gave a yawp.

'All right. That's enough. Go down to the kitchen and get some coffee. We'll try again tonight.'

They went downstairs. As he passed Patrick Aldermann's study, Pascoe heard a noise. He opened the door, and found Dalziel looking through some papers in the desk.

'Come in, Peter. Had a good night, have you?' Dalziel asked.

'What are you doing here?' Pascoe demanded. 'Sir?'

'I thought you might need some company. Nothing's happened, has it? I didn't think it would, but I didn't want to stop you when you were enjoying yourself so much. Let's take a walk round the garden.' Dalziel sounded friendly and relaxed.

What the hell did he want? Pascoe wondered.

As they walked around the rose garden, he asked Dalziel, 'Do you still suspect Patrick Aldermann of something, sir?'

'Me? No. Why should I? A lot of people have died, it's true, but people are always dying, aren't they? And we've no bodies, have we? That's what we're short of, Peter. Bodies.'

He sounded almost regretful, Pascoe thought. They went back into the house, and had breakfast with Wield and Singh.

'Are we leaving now?' Pascoe asked, when everyone had finished.

'Oh no,' Dalziel said. 'We're here to catch some burglars, aren't we? We're staying.'

He led them back upstairs, and then lay down on a bed.

'Wake me up when they come,' he said, and appeared to fall asleep.

Just after eight o'clock they heard a noise, and saw an old van coming into the garden. They could see Caldicott and Son, Gardeners written on it.

'They're here,' Dalziel said, sitting up.

'The gardeners!' Pascoe exclaimed. 'Is it them?'

'There's Jonty Marsh,' Singh said. 'I can see him! And Arthur!'

'Clever, isn't it?' Dalziel said. 'People need their gardeners to call, even when they are away on holiday. And the gardeners have plenty of time to study the house and decide what they want to steal.'

'They aren't stealing anything, sir,' Wield said. 'So far, they're just doing their job.'

'Give them time,' Dalziel told him. 'One of them will cut the burglar alarm. One will come into the house. The others will stay in the garden, so everything looks nice and normal.'

He's right! Pascoe thought bitterly. He saw all this and I didn't. He may be old and fat, I may make jokes about him and laugh at him behind his back, but he's still a better policeman than I am.

Ten minutes went by before they heard someone come into the house.

'Let's go,' Dalziel said. 'You stay here, Singh. We don't want any cadets to get hurt.'

They ran downstairs and found Arthur Marsh in the study with a bag in his hand. As Marsh turned to run, Dalziel threw his considerable weight forwards and held onto his leg.

But Arthur was not the only burglar in the house. Jonty Marsh, with a heavy silver candle-stick in his hand, pushed past Wield and ran upstairs into one of the bedrooms. Wield followed him.

There was shouting, a cry, a crash and then silence.

Wield ran into the room, to find Singh lying on the floor, blood pouring from his head. Through the window, he caught sight of the old van, blocked now by a police car.

Then there was another cry, and he saw Jonty Marsh hanging white-faced outside the window. Wield put all his strength into pulling the criminal in, although he would rather have tried to help the young police cadet lying unconscious at his feet. It was impossible to say whether he was alive or dead.

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

бодрствующий (бдительный), зевать, предъявлять требования, прогуляться, подозревать к.-л., нуждаться (испытывать недостаток в ч.-л.), полный сожаления (опечаленный), поймать грабителей, воскликнуть, садовники, отключить сигнализацию, броситься в обход, кровь хлынула с головы, заметить старый фургон, затянуть преступника внутрь, лежать без сознания.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. Why did police visit Rosemont?
2. Who were staying at the house?
3. What kind of events had happened after 8 o'clock?
4. Who wanted to break into the house?
5. Was anyone injured?
6. Were the criminals captured?

Task 3. Prepare the retelling of the chapter.

CHAPTER 21

'Nothing ever really changes'

On Tuesday night Dick Elgood arrived at the cottage too late to have a swim. Unusually for him, the whispering of the sea in the dark night made him feel lonely and low-spirited, but he woke up next day to a sunny morning, and his mood became more cheerful.

After breakfast he swam, coming out of the sea refreshed in mind and body, ready for the day ahead. He walked back to the cottage and went straight to the shower. The warm water washed the salt off him, and he had enjoyed the sensation for several minutes before he noticed that anything was wrong. His skin began to feel sore and painful. At first it wasn't too bad. His eyes felt as if they had soap in them. He opened them to wash it out.

He screamed as the full force of the pain hit him. His eyes seemed to be on fire, and he crashed about blindly as he tried to run from the cottage and find his way down to the sea. Only the sea, he felt, could make him clean, could save him from this pain. At last he fell into the waves, and the sea washed over his body.

Pascoe, Dalziel, and Wield had just been to visit Shaheed Singh. The young man lay in a hospital bed, his head heavily

bandaged, but with a smile on his face. He was not seriously hurt, and the praise and kind words from those he thought of as his bosses were already making him feel better. Soon his parents and his brothers and sisters would be coming to see him, all proud of the policeman in their family. He had helped to catch a gang of thieves, and was happier than he had been for a long time.

Back at the station, it was Dalziel who heard the news first. He rushed into Pascoe's office, shouting, 'He's dead! Dick Elgood's dead!'

'How?'

'Drowned. His body's been found in the sea near his cottage.'

'What happened? A heart attack?'

'We don't yet know. Find out, can you?'

Hours later, Pascoe had his answer. He looked shocked as he told Dalziel, 'All those bottles of pesticide and stuff he had to kill the insects in his garden. When he put them up in his roof, they must have fallen into his water tank, so that the poisons came out of his shower. Poor Elgood. He died a horrible death. It must have been an accident.'

'Do you really believe that, Inspector?' Dalziel asked in a hard voice.

'It must have been. You surely don't think Patrick Aldermann is involved? Where's the motive? The business about the Board is all over. And the opportunity? He's been away since Monday, and on Sunday night he and Daphne were at our house.'

'Were they indeed,' Dalziel said. 'And later? He could have left his family asleep and driven back to the coast.'

'I suppose so. I'm sure Daphne would know if he went out again that night.'

'Ask her,' Dalziel said. 'You're going there to talk to them about the burglars, aren't you? Ask her then.'

Pascoe hesitated, and then said, 'If I must, sir.'

'Oh yes,' Dalziel told him. 'You know you bloody well must.'

Pascoe arrived at Rosemont in the middle of a golden afternoon. Daphne opened the door to him.

'Peter!' she cried, 'how nice to see you! Come in. Ellie's here. We're all out in the garden.'

'Have you heard about Dick Elgood?'

Her face changed. 'Yes. It's terrible news. Was it a heart attack while he was swimming?' He was sure she wasn't acting.

He went into the garden and found Ellie there, with Rose and the two Aldermann children. David, the Aldermanns' son, had been upset by the news of the burglary, and Patrick and Daphne had brought him home from school with them.

'I'm here on business,' Pascoe told Ellie quietly.

Daphne brought out drinks for the children.

'Poor Dick,' she said to Ellie. 'You know, it's funny, but I felt on Sunday that I might be seeing him for the last time.'

'Really?' Ellie clearly found this hard to believe.

'Yes, really. I couldn't sleep. I sat out here in the garden, feeling something terrible was about to happen.'

'What about Patrick?' Pascoe asked. 'Did he feel the same?'

'Oh no!' Daphne laughed. 'He slept as well as he always does.'

Pascoe felt a great relief. Clearly, Patrick had been safely at home all that night.

'Where is Patrick?' he asked. 'I think I'll go and have a word with him.'

'In his rose garden, of course,' Daphne said. 'He's upset over Dick's death. He always turns to his roses when he feels sad.'

Pascoe found Patrick deadheading the roses with his sharp knife.

'There's so much to do,' he said, continuing to work as they talked.

'And now you've lost your gardeners.'

'Yes. It's a great disappointment. Old Caldicott's father worked for Uncle Eddie, you know. How could they do such a thing?'

'It was Brent, the son,' Pascoe told him. 'He met Arthur Marsh in prison. Old Caldicott really didn't want to be involved. He told us he admired you, and thought you were a real gardener, unlike most people.'

But he was short of money, and I'm afraid Brent must have persuaded him to join in the burglary.'

'It was a shock,' Aldermann said, 'but Dick Elgood's death is a worse one. Such a terrible waste. But then so much of his life was a waste.'

'He looked successful enough to me,' Pascoe said.

'Did he? I suppose he thought he was a success, but I don't think he was a truly happy man.'

'What will happen to Elgood Ceramics now?'

'I don't know. There will be changes. But nothing ever really changes.'

Patrick spoke with the calm of one who knows the truth about life. Everything had always happened as he knew it would. Today he had gone to Elgood's office. In the confusion it had been easy to find the original of Aunt Florence's will in the desk drawer, and to remove it. He had not felt that he was taking a risk. In the same way, it had been easy to wander into the cottage while Elgood's guests were saying goodbye, to pull down the folding ladder, and to put the box of garden chemicals into the water tank, with the bottle tops loosened. Three minutes. Nobody had seen him. This was right; this was how it was meant to be, how it had been and how it always would be. David came running out to his father.

'Mummy says bring Mr. Pascoe into the house for a drink now,' he said.

'Of course,' Patrick said, continuing to cut off the deadheads. 'I'm sorry, Peter. I'm not being a very good host, am I?'

The sun shone suddenly on the knife, as it moved among the dead and dying flowers.

'Daddy,' said the little boy.

'Yes, David?'

'Why are you doing that? What's it for?'

'Well . . .' Aldermann paused and then smiled, as if at a private joke.

He closed the knife, and put it in his pocket.

'I'll tell you some other time. We have our guests to look after. Come on, Peter, you must be hot. Let's join Daphne and Ellie for a cool drink. Isn't it a perfect day?'

While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Find the English equivalents to the following words and word-combinations from the text:

чувствовать себя одиноким и подавленным, его настроение улучшилось, обновленный душой и телом, ощущение (чувство), кожа ощущала боль и болезненность, боль, голова была забинтована, похвала, шайка воров, утонуть, несчастный случай, колебаться, почувствовать облегчение, восхищаться к.-л., убедить к.-л., устранить завещание, пробраться в коттедж, откинуть раскладную лестницу, приоткрыть крышки бутылок.

Task 2. Answer the following questions:

1. What had happened with Dick Elgood at his cottage?
2. Who was lying in the hospital? Why?
3. What kind of information did Dalziel tell Pascoe?
4. Whom did they suspect?
5. What did Dalziel order Pascoe to do?
6. Why did Pascoe feel great relief when he was at the Aldermann's?
7. What were Pascoe and Peter discussing?
8. What had really happened with Elgood?
9. What was Patrick Aldermann's secret?
10. Why did he like to cut dead and dying flowers?

Task 3. Act out the dialogue between:

- a) Dalziel and Pascoe.
- b) Peter Pascoe and Daphne Aldermann.
- c) Peter Pascoe and Patrick Aldermann.

DEADHEADS



While Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Read Part 1, and then answer these questions.

1. What do you think caused Florence Aldermann's death?
2. What does this chapter tell you about Patrick's character?

Task 2. Read Chapters 1 to 7, and then answer these questions.

1. What kind of man was Dick Elgood?
2. Why didn't he want to promote Patrick Aldermann?
3. How did Ellie and Daphne first meet?
4. How did Daphne discover that Ellie was a policeman's wife?
5. Why did Wield and Singh go to visit the Aldermanns?
6. What did Patrick and Wield have a long conversation about?
7. What did Elgood tell Pascoe about Eddie Aldermann?
8. How did Pascoe recognize Patrick the first time he saw him?
9. How did Ellie help Shaheed Singh?
10. Why did Penny Highsmith have a different family name from her son, Patrick Aldermann?

Task 3. Before you read Chapter 8, make a list of five people who have died so far. Do you think Patrick killed any of them? Write YES or NO by each name, and if you write YES, say why Patrick might have killed, or wanted to kill, that person.

1 _____

4 _____

2 _____

5 _____

3 _____

Task 4. Read Chapters 8 to 12. Here are some untrue sentences about this part of the story. Rewrite them with the correct information.

1. Singh's old schoolfriends told him that they had seen someone damaging Daphne's car.
2. Capstick had dismissed Patrick because he wasn't good enough at his job.
3. Patrick cheated Mrs. McNeil's children out of the money she had left them in her will.
4. Dalziel met Penny Highsmith by chance in the street outside her flat in London.
5. Penny had wanted to sell Rosemont but couldn't find a buyer.
6. After questioning Mick Feather and Jonty Marsh, Pascoe realized that Dick Elgood was
trying to murder Patrick Aldermann.
7. Daphne was in love with Elgood, and planned to leave Patrick for him.

Task 5. Before you read Chapter 13, can you guess what happens? Choose answers to these questions.

1. When Daphne tells Elgood she has become friendly with Ellie Pascoe, what do you think Elgood says to Daphne?
 - a) 'I think Patrick has killed three of my employees, and now he's trying to kill me. You're in danger from him too.'
 - b) 'I was frightened by some accidents I had, and I went to the police. I made a stupid mistake, but I'm afraid it means that Pascoe is now investigating your husband.'
2. What does Daphne do after this?
 - a) She confesses to Patrick that she had an affair with Elgood.
 - b) She accuses Patrick of trying to kill Elgood.
 - c) She accuses Ellie of spying on her.

Task 6. Read Chapters 13 to 19. Who said these things? Who were they talking to, and what or who were they talking about?

1. 'I don't think she'd like it if I asked her to spy on her friend, sir!'
2. 'He just closes the door on him, goes home and leaves him to die.'
3. 'They're going to break into a big house called Rosemont.'
4. 'Will your deep friendship for me allow you to tell him ...?'
5. 'The young man who used to look after the roses.'
6. 'I won't repeat what I've just told you. I'll deny everything.'
7. 'Did you never think of marrying his dad?'
8. 'What are you saying? That I destroyed the will? Is that it?'
9. 'It's taken me six years, but now here it is!'
10. 'I see that I must explain something to you, Mr. Dalziel, but it must not go beyond these four walls.'
11. 'I've got a document here that would interest you.'
12. 'You shouldn't leave it where children could find it.'

Task 7. Before you read the final chapters, try to guess how the story might end. Choose some of these ideas, or think of your own.

1. Shaheed Singh is attacked by one of his old friends.
2. The break-in at Rosemont results in a death.
3. Dick Elgood dies in a strange and terrible way.
4. Dalziel asks Penny Highsmith to marry him.
5. Daphne learns the truth about her husband's character.
6. The police find Florence Aldermann's will in Elgood's desk.
7. The Pascoes and the Aldermanns become good friends.
8. We find out the truth about all the deaths which have taken place in this story.

After Reading

ACTIVITIES

Task 1. Perhaps this is what some of the characters in the story were thinking. Which characters are they, who or what are they thinking about, and what is happening at this point in the story?

1. 'Here it is — the gate into the churchyard. He had plenty of time to get into the church and arrange an 'accident' with a falling stone. Only the housekeeper at home. Nobody to ask questions. And why would they? He was such a nice young man!'

2. 'I rather like her - even if she does send her children to a private school. I think I'll invite her for a coffee, get to know her a bit better. And it'll be amusing to see how she reacts to the Market Cafe - not her usual sort of place, I should imagine ...'

3. 'So she didn't have any shopping! But she said she'd spent the whole day at the shops. If she's lying, she must have something to hide. If I could find out what it is, maybe they'd start to take me seriously - not just make fun of me all the time.'

4. 'I knew it! Once a policeman, always a policeman. He's after something. All that rubbish about meeting me by chance! I've had enough of his nasty little questions about the will. And who cares now? It all happened so long ago ...'

5. 'Today's the big day! Nice to see the sun this morning — funny how low I felt last night. Not like myself at all. After all, what can go wrong now? I'm doing what's best for the company, and the man just isn't good enough at his job, apart from anything else. Right —now for a quick swim ...'

6. 'How strange that he's asked me that! The same question that I asked, all those years ago. It's the first lesson I learnt - both in gardening and in life. You have to cut off the fading flowers and the old wood so that new flowers can grow ...'

7. 'How could she do that? I've never felt so angry in my life! I thought we were friends, despite all the differences between us. Well, I was wrong ever to trust her. She seemed so nice, though! And we were getting on so well...'

Task 2. What do you think about the behavior and the opinions of these people? Discuss whether they were right or wrong to act as they did.

1. Singh told Wield that his old schoolfriends had damaged Daphne's car.
2. Mick Feaver told Singh about his friends' plan to break into Rosemont.
3. Ellie didn't tell Daphne when she found out that her husband was investigating Daphne's husband.
4. Penny Highsmith had hidden her aunt's will after it had been found, which meant that she and Patrick continued to be the inheritors of Eddie Aldermann's house and money.
5. Dalziel wanted Pascoe to ask Ellie to find out all she could about Daphne Aldermann.
6. Dick Elgood believed that his affairs with Daphne Aldermann and with Mandy Burke hurt nobody.
7. Penny Highsmith refused to tell anyone who Patrick's father was.
8. Capstick didn't go to the police when he discovered that Patrick had been stealing money from Mrs. McNeil.

Task 3. Here is a police report about the break-in at Rosemont. Match the halves of sentences, join them with linking words where needed, and put the sentences in the correct order to form the report.

after / although / and / and / and / as / while

1. _____ the thieves had all been arrested, ...
2. Soon after 8 a.m. the van belonging to Caldicotts the gardeners arrived at Rosemont, ...
3. Following information given to Police Cadet Singh by an informer called Mick Feaver,...
4. Wield, Pascoe, and Singh therefore spent the night of July 2nd in the house at Rosemont,...
5. ____ they began to steal silver and other valuables from the rooms,...
6. ____ they waited all night,...
7. He has now made a full recovery,...
8. In the struggle which followed, Singh was attacked by Jonty Marsh,...
9. ____ Arthur and Jonty Marsh entered the house.
10. ____ two other officers waited in a car outside.

11. Singh was taken to hospital for treatment.
12. _____ the officers attempted to arrest them.
13. _____ has been officially congratulated for his part in catching the thieves.
14. _____ it was known that there would be a break-in at Rosemont during the first weekend in July.
15. _____ nothing had happened when Chief Superintendent Dalziel arrived early the next morning.

Task 4. What caused the deaths in this story? Use these notes to write a paragraph about each one, and say whether, in your opinion, Patrick was responsible for causing the death.

The people who died

- *Florence Aldermann / the man who wanted to buy Rosemont / the Reverend Somerton / Mrs. McNeil / Chris Burke / Brian Bulmer / Timothy Eagles / Dick Elgood*

How they died

- *a heart attack / another illness / poisoning / an 'accident'*
- Patrick's possible motives for killing
- *to get a better job / to inherit money or property / revenge / jealousy / to prevent discovery of criminal or illegal actions*

How Patrick could have caused the deaths

- *poisoning water or fruit / causing or encouraging serious illness / causing an 'accident'*

Example:

The man who wanted to buy Rosemont died because he ate a poisoned apple. Patrick's motive for killing him would have been to stop his mother selling Rosemont, so that he could keep the house himself. He could have poisoned an apple with a garden pesticide and then given it to the man when he called at Rosemont that day. In my opinion, Patrick probably caused the man's death.

Task 5. Opinion is one thing; proof is another. Now discuss these questions about the deaths.

1. Which of the deaths do you think could be called murder?
2. If Patrick were ever arrested and charged with one of these murders, would there be sufficient evidence (witnesses, fingerprints, etc.) for a court of law to find him guilty?

Task 6. When Penny was trying to sell Rosemont and the buyer died, how did Penny and her son decide what to do next? Complete Patrick's side of this conversation.

Penny: I've just had some very upsetting news, Patrick. You know the man who's going to buy the house, who called in last week to discuss the sale?

Patrick: _____

Penny: Well... I can hardly believe this, but he's dead! He was found dead in his hotel bed the morning after we saw him.

Patrick: _____

Penny: No, it wasn't his heart. It sounds crazy, but they think he was poisoned - by an apple! How on earth could an apple... ?

Patrick: _____

Penny: Yes, well, that must be what happened. The poor man! And now we'll have to find another buyer...

Patrick: _____

Penny: A message for us? What kind of message? What are you talking about, Patrick?

Patrick: _____

Penny: Well, you may feel that you couldn't live anywhere else, but I don't! I just want to get back to London.

Patrick: _____

Penny: Yes, I know you hate London, but what do you suggest we do? I'm not going to live at Rosemont, just to please you!

Patrick: _____

Penny: I see. And if I give you Rosemont, what are you going to do? How will you find the money to look after the place?

Patrick: _____

Penny: I'm sure Uncle Eddie would have been very happy, to know that his name and his roses will continue...

Task 7. After Elgood's death, Dalziel does not know what to think. Is Patrick an innocent man who just happens to have been near to a lot of deaths, or is he guilty of murder? Complete Dalziel's thoughts with one suitable word for each gap.

'OK, Elgood carried that box of ___ up into the roof himself – I ___ him do it. But surely he ___ have put the box on the ___ by the water tank, not on ___ of the tank. Why would he ___ done that? And even if he ___ put the box on the tank, ___ could the bottles have fallen into ___ water, and how did the stuff ___ out of the bottles? The tops ___ have been tightly closed - unless someone ___ had loosened them, of course.

Someone ___ have gone up there later. Perhaps ___ was Aldermann. But when? Did he ___ up there at the end of ___ party? But the place was ___ of people! Surely someone would have ___ him. Would he really take a ___ like that?'

Task 8. The story ends with Patrick Aldermann still a free and successful man. Discuss these questions about him.

1. Will he go on murdering people who get in his way, or will he be satisfied now, since he has removed all immediate threats and has achieved his ambition as a rose-grower?
2. Here are some statements Patrick makes about what he believes. How could these ideas lead someone either to crime, or to success in life?
3. 'I think we are all damaged by limits on the development of our true nature – limits.
4. forced on us by the hard necessities of life.'
5. b) 'We must find the courage to reach out and take what life offers us.'

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