

**МИНИСТЕРСТВО НАУКИ И ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ**

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высшего образования

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Практикум

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Данный практикум предназначен для студентов нелингвистического профиля подготовки и ориентирован на развитие навыков чтения, а также совершенствование лексической и грамматической стороны речи. Практикум состоит из трёх разделов, включающих текст рассказа и задания к каждому из его частей.

Тексты содержат большое количество диалогов, разговорных фраз и синтаксических конструкций, способствующих развитию навыков устной речи на материале прочитанного текста. Предложенные задания позволяют контролировать понимание общего содержания и деталей текста, стимулируют способность давать аргументированное и грамматически правильно оформленное высказывание.

Практикум предназначен для студентов магистратуры естественнонаучных специальностей и может быть использован в режиме самостоятельной подготовки с проверкой выполнения заданий во время аудиторных занятий.

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ВВЕДЕНИЕ

В практикум включены тексты остросюжетных рассказов популярных английских писателей. Каждый из рассказов принадлежит руке мастера детективного жанра, что делает их чтение интересным и увлекательным занятием. Обилие диалогов с несложными синтаксическими структурами при незначительном количестве трудных слов и описаний облегчает понимание и знакомит с особенностями разговорной устной речи.

Работа над практикумом имеет целью совершенствование навыков чтения, грамматической стороны речи и пополнение запаса слов за счёт общелитературной лексики, охватывающей различные ситуации речевого общения.

Чтение и понимание основного содержания рассказов, в зависимости от уровня языковой подготовки, возможно как с использованием словаря, так и с опорой лишь на собственный запас слов. Первичное ознакомление с общим содержанием текста целесообразно осуществлять без словаря. Это позволяет проверить уровень владения языком на данный момент, запас слов, адекватность грамматических знаний, а также знакомство с необходимым материалом страноведческого характера. Более детальное прочтение текста и выполнение заданий предполагают использование словарей разных типов, знание синонимов, идиом, слов и выражений, используемых для характеристики персонажа, обоснования своего мнения и ведения дискуссии.

Упражнения на употребление артиклей и предлогов рекомендуется вначале выполнить самостоятельно, а затем сравнить полученные результаты с текстом рассказа, используя его как ключ для проверки правильности выполнения задания.

На завершающем этапе работы над каждым из эпизодов рассказа рекомендуется пересказ содержания текста. Изложение содержания текста своими словами требует владения навыками обращения прямой речи в косвенную, умения перефразировать высказывание, найти соответствие между просторечными и литературными формами, сформулировать развёрнутое монологическое высказывание с оценкой поведения персонажей и описываемых событий.

Для повышения эффективности работы рекомендуется регулярное ведение записей, как при выполнении домашних заданий, так и в ходе аудиторных занятий. Совершенствование речевых навыков, как и усвоение любой новой информации, оказывается прочным и надёжным, когда задействованы все доступные для этого возможности и средства: зрительное восприятие, письменная речь, говорение, выполнение упражнений, повторение пройденного, активность на уроке, постоянная тренировка в языковом оформлении своего высказывания, и, конечно, регулярность работы и тщательность выполнения заданий.

A Taste Of Murder

after Sue Arengo

Read the episodes and do the tasks following them.

Episode I. Arrival

‘Claremount Private Nursing Agency. Angela speaking. Can I help you?’

‘Angela? It’s Anne here... Anne Harrison. Have you got the details of that new job?’

‘Oh, Anne! Hello! Yes... Wait a minute. I’ll bring them. Yes... Here they are... A private nurse is needed for Mrs Kitty Blakemore.’

‘Kitty Blakemore, the famous writer?’

‘Yes, that’s right, said Angela. ‘Actually, there isn't really much wrong with her. She has a slightly weak heart, but she’s not really ill. She’s just a hypochondriac’.

‘Oh, I see... One of those! Oh , well, what’s the address?’

‘She lives in the country’, said Angela. ‘The Grange, Kingsfield, Sussex. She wants you to be there tomorrow morning. Good luck!’

Early next morning I drove to Kingsfield, a pretty little village near the sea. It had a shop and a church, but not much else, except for a few houses. The Grange was just outside the village, at the end of a private road. It was a large, grey house with yellow flowers growing up the walls. There were two stone dogs – one on either side of the front door. I rang the bell and waited. No one answered. I rang it again. At last, the door opened, and I saw a young blond girl, wearing a dark blue dress and a white apron. She stood there staring at me.

‘Yes?’ she said. She looked slightly annoyed.

‘I’m Nurse Harrison’, I said. ‘I’ve been sent by the nursing agency.’

‘Oh, yes. Come in.’

I followed her into the hall. At the same moment, a tall woman, aged about forty, was coming down the stairs.

‘Nurse Harrison?’ she asked. We shook hands. ‘I’m Stella Vixon, the housekeeper.’

She was quite beautiful, but in a strange and a little frightening way. Although she smiled at me, she seemed very controlled and there was something mysterious about her eyes. She was wearing a plain black dress.

‘I hope you’ll be happy here,’ she said. ‘Charlotte will show you to your room.’ She gave me another strange smile before she walked away.

‘Come on,’ said Charlotte.

I followed her up the stairs and down a long corridor. Then we went up some more stairs and down another, shorter corridor. She pushed open a door at the end.

‘Here's your room,’ she said.

It was a fairly large room with a blue carpet on the floor and blue curtains on the tall windows. I put down my suitcase and waited for Charlotte to go away, but she didn't. Instead, she sat down on my bed, staring at the ceiling.

'Why do you want to work in this place?' she asked.

'It's just a job,' I replied, as I washed my hands and dried them.

'Mrs Blakemore's terrible,' said Charlotte. 'She's not really sick, you know. She just lies in bed all day and gives us orders. I don't know why her husband likes her. He's famous, too, you know. He's a famous composer, you know. He writes wonderful music. Have you ever heard of him? No? Well, he's lucky. He's away at the moment. He's working in Wales. Poor us! We have to stay here with *her*!'

While Charlotte was talking, I was brushing my hair and looking at her in the mirror. She took something out of her apron pocket and examined it. Then there was a knock at the door, and she jumped off the bed. She quickly put it back into her pocket. Stella Vixon came in.

'Are you still here, Charlotte?' she said. 'Hurry up and go downstairs. Oh, ... and ... Mrs Blakemore has lost one of her rings. It has disappeared from her jewel box. Do you know anything about it?'

'What do you mean? I'm not a thief!' cried Charlotte angrily. 'I didn't take it!'

'All right,' said Miss Vixon. 'Calm down. I've only asked if you know anything about it. Now hurry up, and go and do your work.'

Then she turned to me.

'If you are ready, Nurse Harrison, we'll go and see Mrs Blakemore now.'

Comprehension Check

I. Answer the following questions.

1. Who was Anne Harrison going to work for as a private nurse?
2. What was she told about Mrs Blakemore?
3. What sort of place was Kingsfield?
4. How was nurse Harrison received by the maid?
5. What impression did Miss Vixon produce on the nurse?
6. What did Charlotte tell her about Mr and Mrs Blakemore?
7. What was Charlotte's reaction to the news broken by Miss Vixon?
8. Where was Anne taken to by the housekeeper?

II. Say if it is true or false.

1. Miss Harrison believed that her client was not seriously ill.
2. Mrs Blakemore was a popular composer.
3. The house was in the centre of the village.
4. Charlotte gave the nurse a friendly welcome.
5. The Grange was a big house at the end of a private road.
6. The housekeeper's smile was peculiar.
7. Miss Vixon accused Charlotte of having stolen Mrs Blakemore's ring.
8. The housekeeper was going to take Nurse Harrison to Mrs Blakemore's room.

Discussion

III. Explain what is meant by the statement:

She's a bit of a hypochondriac.

IV. What struck the nurse as unusual about Miss Vixon's face?

V. Explain why the pronoun *her* is italicized in the sentence:

We have to stay here with *her*!

VI. Compare the manner and behaviour of Miss Vixon and Charlotte.

Grammar and Vocabulary

VII. Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions.

1. 'A private nurse is needed ... Mrs Kitty Blakemore'.
2. 'There's not a lot wrong ... her at all.'
3. It was a pretty little village not far ... the sea.
4. Although she smiled ... me, she seemed very controlled.
5. 'Charlotte will show you ... your room.'
6. I followed her ... the stairs and ... a long corridor.
7. She pushed open a door ... the end.
8. It was a large room ... tall windows.
9. I put ... my suitcase.
10. She sat ... on my bed, staring ... the ceiling.
11. She took something ... her apron and examined it.
12. Then there was a knock ... the door and she jumped ... the bed.

VIII. Choose the Active or the Passive form of the verb.

1. Anne (*to tell*) that Mrs Blakemore was not seriously ill.
2. She (*to make*) to wait long before the door opened.
3. Charlotte (*to put*) the thing into her pocket before the housekeeper came in.
4. Anne saw a tall woman (*to come*) down the stairs.
5. The nurse (*to show*) to her room by Charlotte.
6. Miss Vixon said that one of Mrs Blakemore's rings (*to lose*).
7. The ring (*to disappear*) from the jewel box.
8. Charlotte cried out angrily that she (*not to steal*) it.
9. Anne (*to ask*) to follow Miss Vixon to Mrs Blakemore's room.

IX. Turn the following statements and questions into indirect speech.

1. Anne asked Angela, 'Have you got the details of that new job?'
2. Anne said, 'I've been sent by the nursing agency.'
3. Charlotte asked Anne, 'Have you heard of Mr Blakemore?'
4. Miss Vixon said to Charlotte, 'Hurry up and go downstairs.'
5. Charlotte asked the nurse, 'Why do you want this place?'
6. Miss Vixon asked Charlotte, 'Do you know anything about it?'
7. Miss Vixon said to Charlotte, 'Nobody is saying that you are a thief.'

X. Match the following.

1. hurry up	a) scary, terrifying
2. annoyed	b) to press the bell button
3. hypochondria	c) displeased
4. frightening	d) secret, weird
5. mysterious	e) depression of mind or spirits often centered on imaginary physical ailments
6. to calm down	f) as a matter of fact, really
7. to ring the bell	g) a person employed to keep house
8. actually	h) an organisation providing private nurses for their clients
9. housekeeper	i) a person who steals things
10. nursing agency	j) to have a heart trouble
11. to be controlled	k) to get quiet
12. to examine smth.	l) to make haste
13. thief	m) to be reserved
14. to have a weak heart	n) to look at smth.

XI. Paraphrase the italicized parts of the sentences using the expressions from the text.

1. It's *merely* a job.
2. *Get quiet*, I've only asked if you know anything about it.
3. *Make haste*, and go and do your work.

XII. Say which words refer to Miss Vixon and which ones to Charlotte.

Reserved, talkative, well-bred, ill-mannered, intelligent, none-too-clever (narrow-minded), intrusive, responsible, inquisitive, composed, carefree.

Episode II. Mrs. Blakemore

I followed Miss Vixon down the corridor, feeling a little nervous. We went across to another part of the house. She knocked on a heavy white door, and we walked into Mrs Blakemore's bedroom. Although it was eleven o'clock in the morning, the curtains were half closed and the room was quite dark. The windows were shut. A woman aged about fifty-five was half sitting up in bed.

'Is that the new nurse?' she asked in a sharp, thin voice. I was surprised to see that she looked very weak and pale. There were some bottles of medicine and pills on the table beside her bed, next to a vase of yellow flowers. The bed itself was covered with books and letters, and half-eaten chocolates. Her thin fingers were pulling at the sheets.

'Yes, here she is. This is Nurse Harrison,' said Miss Vixon.

'Good', said Mrs Blakemore. 'Now you – get out and leave us alone.'

I was astonished, but the housekeeper seemed to expect such language. She just smiled politely and left the room. Mrs Blakemore stared at me. Eventually, she gave me a smile.

'You look intelligent, Nurse,' she said. 'The others... they're all useless. I'm not getting any better, you know. I'm getting worse.' A look of fear came into her eyes. 'Do you know... sometimes I feel that someone is trying to poison me!'

'What a ridiculous idea!' I said. 'What you need is some fresh air.'

I opened one of the windows and pulled back the curtains. Sunlight poured into the room. I took her temperature. It was perfectly normal.

'Now,' I suggested gently, 'I am sure a nice walk in the garden would make you feel a lot better.'

'Oh, don't be silly,' she said. 'I'm much too weak.'

She started to complain about her legs. She said they were full of pain. She also said she had a nasty taste in her mouth, and that she often felt sick. As she was telling me all this, Miss Vixon opened the door and said, 'Doctor Spencer is here.'

A short, fat man wearing glasses came in. He came over to the bed.

'And how's my patient today?' he asked.

'I've got a very nasty taste in my mouth, Doctor,' she complained. 'My legs hurt, and I feel sick.'

As he opened his black case, he noticed me. 'Ah!' he said. 'But you've got a nice new nurse! What a lucky woman you are!'

'Listen, Doctor,' said Mrs Blakemore. 'I'm not getting any better.' 'I was sick last night.'

'Oh, dear', said Doctor Spencer. 'You've been eating too many chocolates, I expect!' He smiled at her and then at me, as if to say 'What a hypochondriac!'

'I'm really sick, you fool!' said Mrs Blakemore, angrily.

'My dear lady,' said Doctor Spencer gently. 'Please don't worry. You worry too much.'

He looked at me. 'I'll just give her a little injection. It will help her to relax.' I nodded. 'It's her imagination,' he said. 'She has some strange ideas and she worries about all kinds of things. She's a writer, you see.'

The injection worked, and soon she was lying there quietly. Then Doctor Spencer noticed the chocolates.

'There... What did I say? More chocolates... Dear... dear!'

'Yes,' Mrs Blakemore sighed. 'My nephew always brings me chocolates.'

'Your nephew?'

'My nephew... our vicar... the Reverend John Palmer,' she explained in a tired voice.

'Oh. So he's your nephew, is he? That's interesting,' said the doctor. 'I didn't know that.'

'I've told you hundreds of times, I'm sure,' said Mrs Blakemore. 'Your memory isn't very good, is it? Or perhaps you're just trying to annoy me.'

He laughed a little nervously at this. His face, however, soon became serious again, and he left the room as soon as he could.

‘Ridiculous man!’ she said when he had gone. Then she smiled at me strangely. ‘In fact, I’ve got a little joke for Doctor Spencer.’

‘Have you?’ I said.

‘Yes. I’ve told him that when I die, I’m going to leave him a lot of money in my will, but the truth is that I’m not going to leave him anything!’ Mrs Blakemore laughed. ‘He’s a useless doctor. Completely useless!’

‘Why don’t you get a new one?’

‘My dear girl,’ she replied, ‘this isn’t London, you know. This is the country. The only other doctor in the area lives ten miles away... and he’s useless, too. The world is full of useless people.’ She sighed and closed her eyes. ‘Anyway, I’m leaving all my money to my nephew.’

‘But what about your husband?’

‘Edward?’ She looked almost kind for a moment. ‘Edward doesn’t want my money. No, Edward doesn’t need my money. He’s got plenty of his own... even this house is his. I wouldn’t have married him if he hadn’t been a rich man. Anyway, he doesn’t really care about money. All he thinks about is music.’

She put another chocolate into her mouth and ate it.

Comprehension Check

I. Answer the following questions.

1. What did Mrs Blakemore's room look like?
2. What did the nurse notice about Mrs Blakemore's voice, looks and manner of speaking?
3. What compliment did Mrs Blakemore pay to the nurse?
4. What suspicion did Mrs Blakemore share with Anne when they were left alone?
5. What did she complain of?
6. Whose visit was their talk interrupted by?
7. How did the doctor react to Mrs Blakemore's complaints?
8. Who used to bring her chocolates?
9. Why was Mrs Blakemore annoyed by the doctor?
10. What did she tell Anne about the doctor after he had left?
11. How did Mrs Blakemore explain her decision not to leave any money to her husband?

II. Say if it is true or false.

1. Mrs Blakemore was going to leave all her money to her husband.
2. She said that all her husband cared for was writing books.
3. Mrs Blakemore was pessimistic in her judgement of people.
4. The doctor was alarmed by his patient's mentioning that she was getting worse.
5. Mrs Blakemore did not speak politely to Miss Vixon.
6. The nurse did not take Mrs Blakemore's suspicions seriously.
7. Mrs Blakemore did not care much what impression she produced on the people around her.
8. She was considering the possibility of getting another, more efficient doctor.
9. The Doctor, at least outwardly, did not feel hurt by the patient's remarks.

III. Complete the following sentences.

1. The vicar bought ... for his aunt.
2. Mrs Blakemore was going to ...
3. Mrs Blakemore said that she wouldn't have married her husband if ...
4. Anne thought that what Mrs Blakemore needed was ...
5. In the eyes of the agency staff, Mrs Blakemore was a
6. Mrs Blakemore spoke in a voice.
7. The doctor laughed a little ... at Mrs Blakemore's words.
8. On the way to Mrs Blakemore's room, Anne felt a little ...
9. The housekeeper seemed to expect ...
10. The injection seemed ... , and Mrs Blakemore got quiet.
11. In the doctor's opinion, Mrs Blakemore worried about ...
12. 'You've got a nice nurse to ...'
13. 'This isn't London, you know. This is ...'
14. 'He's a ... doctor.'
15. 'He doesn't really care ...'

Discussion

IV. Give proofs to the following.

1. Dr. Spencer did not take his patient's complaints seriously.
2. Miss Vixon was accustomed to the way Mrs Blakemore treated her.
3. Mrs Blakemore did not think highly of the doctor.
4. The nurse was not inclined to believe that the symptoms of Mrs Blakemore's disease were alarming.
5. Mrs Blakemore was sincere with the nurse.
6. The doctor put up with the patient's rudeness because he hoped to get a financial reward from her.

V. Say what the reasons might be for:

- a) Mrs Blakemore's contemptuous attitude to the doctor;
- b) her disrespect for Miss Vixon.
- c) her direct and sincere manner in her talk with the new nurse.

Grammar and Vocabulary

VI. Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions.

1. The bed was covered ... books, letters and half-eaten chocolates.
2. 'I've got a little joke ... Doctor Spencer.'
3. Mr Blakemore did not really care ... his wife's money.
4. Mrs Blakemore said that the only doctor in the area lived ten miles ...
5. 'She worries ... all kinds of things.'
6. 'A nice walk ... the garden would make you feel a lot better.'
7. Mrs Blakemore stared ... me.
8. She knocked ... the door and they came ... the room.
9. A short fat man, wearing glasses, came ...
10. She made the remark ... a weak and tired voice.

11. Mrs Blakemore started to complain ... her legs.
12. A look ... fear came ... her eyes.

VII. Turn the following statements into indirect speech.

1. She said, 'My husband doesn't really need my money.'
2. The nurse said to Mrs Blakemore, 'What you need is some fresh air.'
3. Mrs Blakemore said, 'I've got a rather good joke for Doctor Spencer.'
4. 'I'm not getting any better,' she said.
5. Doctor Spencer said, 'I'll give her a little injection that will help her to relax.'
6. Mrs Blakemore said to the nurse, 'Sometimes I feel that someone is trying to poison me.'
7. She said, 'My nephew always brings me chocolates.'
8. Mrs Blakemore said, 'I've told the doctor that when I die, I'm going to leave him a lot of money in my will.'
9. 'You've been eating too many chocolates, I expect', said the doctor.
10. 'You've got a nice new nurse!' said Doctor Spencer.

VIII. Choose the Active or the Passive form of the verb.

1. Mrs Blakemore was lying quietly after she (*to give*) an injection.
2. The nurse (*to pay*) a compliment by Mrs Blakemore.
3. Miss Vixon (*to order*) to leave the room.
4. Evidently, miss Vixon (*to be*) accustomed to such language.
5. It (*to be*) dark in the room, as the curtains (*to close*).
6. After the curtains (*to pull*) back, sunlight (*to pour*) into the room.
7. Mrs Blakemore feared that she (*to poison*).

IX. Paraphrase the following sentences using the synonymous expressions from the text.

1. You look like a *clever* person.
2. *Finally*, she gave me a small smile.
3. What a *strange* thought!
4. A nice walk would *do you a lot of good*.
5. I was *amazed* to see that she looked very weak and pale.
6. I was *surprised*, but the housekeeper seemed to expect such language.
7. The others are *good for nothing*.
8. You are rather *forgetful*, aren't, you?
9. Or perhaps you are trying to *irritate* me?
10. The world is full of *incompetent, silly* people.
11. I've mentioned it *many a time*.

X. Translate the following sentences from English into Russian. Use them in situations based on the text.

1. It seemed such a ridiculous idea.
2. I felt a little nervous.

3. I was astonished.
4. The injection seemed to work.
5. 'I have a nasty taste in my mouth.'
6. 'I was sick last night.'
7. 'What a hypochondriac!'
8. I nodded.
9. He left the room as soon as he could.
10. 'He's got plenty of his own.'
11. 'It's her imagination.'

XI. Choose the words that may be used to characterize Mrs Blakemore:

Kind-hearted, idealistic, straightforward, tactful, domineering, polite, obedient, capable of deception, well-wishing, shrewd, intelligent, self-assured, naive, spiteful, pragmatic, reasonable, shy.

Episode III. The Household

Outside, in the corridor, I met Charlotte. She was carrying Mrs Blakemore's lunch on a silver tray. When she had taken it into the bedroom, she showed me the way to the kitchen. Here, we all ate in silence. After a while, I tried to start some friendly conversation.

'This is a nice tasty piece of chicken,' I said to Bernard, the cook.

He stopped eating and looked at me. I could see that he had not shaved that morning.

'What do you think of her then?' he asked.

'Mrs Blakemore? Oh, she seems all right,' I replied, pouring myself a glass of water.

'All right?' said Bernard. 'She's rude, selfish, and mean. Do you know, she's got lots of money... loads of it...and, yet, she's so mean that she always makes us use the last little bit of everything. The last bit of milk, the last little bit of bread.'

'Well, perhaps she doesn't like to waste anything,' I said. There was silence.

'Mrs Blakemore thinks someone is poisoning her,' I said.

Bernard laughed loudly at this. 'Really?' he said. 'I'm sure we would all like to poison her, if we could. I would poison her myself if I could think of a good way to do it!'

Miss Vixon put down her knife and fork. 'Bernard!' Her face was white.

'Well, it's true, isn't it?' he said. 'You don't like her either, do you?'

Miss Vixon didn't answer. We all continued eating in silence. When Bernard got up to bring the ice-cream from the fridge, I noticed that he walked with difficulty. There was something wrong with his left leg.

Suddenly Charlotte said to me, 'That's a nice ring you have. It's a diamond, isn't it?'

‘Yes,’ I said. I was glad that she had switched on to another topic. ‘I’m getting married next year. My boyfriend's name is David and he’s in the Navy. He’s going to be away at sea for the next six months.’

‘Oh, I’d like to get married, too,’ said Charlotte. ‘I’d like to marry a rich man. I want to have a house like this and a maid of my own.’ She gave a little laugh. ‘Who knows ... perhaps, if Mrs Blakemore dies, Mr. Blakemore will marry me? I know he’s a bit old – but he’s famous and he’s rich!’

‘If that’s supposed to be one of your jokes, Charlotte,’ said Miss Vixon, ‘it’s not very funny.’ Her face was cold and angry.

Bernard only laughed again. ‘Yes, Charlotte. Keep your mouth shut. Mr Blakemore would never be interested in a silly little girl like you!’

After lunch, I went upstairs to see my patient. She was sleeping peacefully. Her lunch plate was on the table beside the bed. It looked as if she had eaten some of it. I examined the bottles of medicine and pills. ‘Surely she doesn’t need all these,’ I thought. ‘What she needs is a bottle of vitamin tonic.’ As she was sleeping, I decided to walk into the village and buy one for her.

It was a beautiful afternoon, and the village looked very pretty in the sunshine. As I passed the church, I remembered that the vicar was Mrs. Blakemore’s nephew. I went inside to have a look. Although it was a lovely old building, it was in a terrible condition. Some of the coloured glass in the windows was broken, and there were holes in the roof. It was clear that the whole place needed repairing.

‘How sad that this should happen to such a lovely church!’ I thought.

There was only one shop in Kingsfield, but it seemed to sell almost everything. Inside, the woman who owned it was busy. She was talking to a thin man in a black suit.

‘Yes, Vicar,’ she said, ‘it’s going to cost a lot of money to mend that roof, isn’t it? Where are you going to get the money from?’

‘Don’t worry, Mrs Owen’, he said. ‘We’ll get the money. God will help us.’

Then she noticed me and saw that I was a stranger. Her smile vanished.

‘Yes?’ she said. ‘Can I help you?’

The vicar turned round, too. I could see his face now. It was a proud face, with a thin mouth and dull eyes.

‘Hello!’ I said brightly. ‘A bottle of tonic, please!’

That evening I saw the Reverend Palmer again. I had just helped Mrs. Blakemore to go to her bedroom. She wanted to wash and brush her teeth. I was helping her to get back into bed, when the priest came in. He was holding a small box of chocolates.

‘Ah, John, it’s you!’ she said. ‘Look! I’ve got a nice new nurse. She’s going to make me better. That last nurse I had was useless.’

He glanced at me, but I don't think he remembered me.

‘Smile, John. Smile!’ his aunt said. ‘You're always so serious.’

‘But I’m very worried, Aunt Kitty,’ he said. ‘I’ve just been told how much money it will cost to repair the church roof. Thousands of pounds!’

‘Oh, stop it! You are always talking about the church. It's boring. I'm sure there's nothing wrong with the church roof,’ said Mrs Blakemore. ‘Anyway, I think everything about the church is a waste of time. I haven't been to church for twenty years. Come on, Nurse – open the chocolates. I think my nephew needs something to make him smile!’

But he stood up. ‘No, not for me, thank you,’ he said. ‘I must go now. I only came in for a moment.’ He looked annoyed.

I opened the box of chocolates and gave it to Mrs Blakemore. Then I left the room.

Comprehension Check

I. Answer the following questions.

1. Who did Nurse Harrison have lunch together with?
2. How did Bernard express his attitude to Mrs Blakemore?
3. How did Charlotte switch the conversation on to another topic?
4. What was Charlotte's cherished dream?
5. How did Miss Vixon react to Bernard's and Charlotte's remarks?
6. Why did the nurse go to the village after lunch?
7. What impression did the church produce on her?
8. Who did she see in the shop?
9. What worried the vicar?
10. Who paid Mrs Blakemore a visit in the evening?
11. What reason did the vicar give for his being upset?
12. What did Mrs Blakemore think about her nephew's worries?

II. Recall the situations in which the following remarks and sentences occur in the text.

1. Her smile vanished.
2. 'Keep your mouth shut.'
3. 'It's going to cost a lot of money.'
4. 'There's nothing wrong with the church roof.'
5. He looked annoyed.
6. Her face was cold and angry.
7. 'Oh, stop it! ... It's boring.'
8. 'Surely she doesn't need all these.'
9. 'You don't like her either, do you?'
10. ‘Well, it's true, isn't it?’

Discussion

III. Prove that Miss Harrison was an observant and tactful person.

IV. Comment on the use of inversion and italics in the following case:

"Well, I wouldn't be surprised if someone *did* want to poison her."

V. Substantiate your answers to the following questions.

1. Why was Miss Harrison so sincere about her plans for the future at lunch?
2. Was Mrs Blakemore in a better mood that day? Find proofs in the text.
3. What impression did the Reverend Palmer produce on you?

Grammar and Vocabulary

VI. Turn the following statements and questions into indirect speech.

1. I said to Bernard, 'This is a nice tasty piece of chicken.'
2. 'What do you think of her then?' he asked.
3. 'I'm getting married next year', I said.
4. 'Look! I've got a nice new nurse', she said.
5. 'She's going to make me better', she added.
6. Mrs Blakemore said, 'I haven't been to church for twenty years.'
7. The vicar said, 'I've just been told how much money it will cost to repair the roof.'
8. 'If that's supposed to be one of your jokes, Charlotte,' said Miss Vixon, 'it's not very funny.'
9. 'Who knows ... perhaps, if Mrs Blakemore dies, Mr Blakemore will marry me', said Charlotte.
10. Charlotte said, 'I want to have a house like this, and a maid of my own.'
11. Bernard said, 'She's so mean that she always makes us use the last little bit of everything.'
12. 'I think everything about the church is a waste of time', said Mrs Blakemore.
13. The vicar said, 'I only came in for a moment.'
14. 'We'll get the money. God will help us,' said the vicar.

VII. Insert the articles where necessary.

1. He is in ... Navy.
2. He's going to be away at sea for ... next six months.
3. There was ... silence.
4. Bernard got up to bring ... ice-cream from the fridge.
5. It's ... diamond, isn't it?
6. She gave ... little laugh.
7. We'll get ... new roof.
8. It will take thousands of pounds to mend ... roof.
9. Mrs Blakemore was not ... believer, and she didn't go to ... church.
10. She asked ... nurse to open ... chocolates.
11. She saw that I was ... stranger.
12. ... weather was fine, and ... village looked beautiful.
13. Her lunch plate was on ... table beside ... bed.

VIII. Choose the Active or the Passive form of the verb.

1. Anne was glad the conversation (*to switch*) on to another topic.
2. It was clear that the church (*not to repair*) for a long time.
3. The nurse noted that some of the lunch (*to eat*).

4. The vicar (*to tell*) that it would (*to cost*) a lot to repair the church roof.
5. That day, ice-cream (*to serve*) for dessert.
6. Ann was sure all those bottles and pills (*not to need*).
7. Since Mrs Blakemore (*to sleep*), Anne went to the village to buy her a bottle of vitamin tonic.

IX. Give the English for the following Russian words and word-combinations. Use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

посмеяться над чем-л.
 отравить кого-л.
 в ужасном состоянии
 нуждаться в ремонте
 обернуться
 дружеская беседа
 взглянуть
 молча

X. Give the Russian for the following English words and word-combinations from the text. Remember the situations in which they are used in the text.

to waste
 what she needs is ...
 a lovely building
 dull eyes
 mean, *adj*
 to walk with difficulty
 to think of a good way to do smth.

XI. Paraphrase the italicized parts of the sentences using the expressions from the text.

1. It's *a fine piece* of chicken.
2. Oh, she seems *fine*.
3. She's *impolite, egoistic and greedy*.
4. She's got *heaps* of money.
5. Mrs Blakemore thinks she *is being poisoned*.
6. I would poison her myself if I could think of a *suitable* way to do it.
7. I was glad she had *changed the topic* of the conversation.
8. It's going *to cost a pretty penny* to mend the roof.
9. I think my nephew needs something *to cheer him up*.
10. I only *dropped in* for a moment.
11. 'You are *constantly* talking about the church.'
12. 'I must *be off*.'
13. 'She *will make* me better.'
14. Her smile *disappeared*.

Episode IV. A Nasty Taste in the Mouth

I went to telephone my parents and tell them that I was all right. When I was coming back, I met Charlotte. She was carrying Mrs Blakemore's dinner on a tray.

'What's she having tonight?' I asked.

'Scrambled eggs,' said Charlotte. 'We're having scrambled eggs, too.'

When I entered the kitchen, Bernard and Miss Vixon were talking. As soon as they saw me, they stopped. I sat down, feeling rather embarrassed. The silence was worse than at lunch-time.

Afterwards I went up to see my patient again. She had only eaten about half of her scrambled eggs.

'If you don't eat your food, you won't get better,' I said.

'I hate to waste anything, but I can't eat any more of this. It tastes terrible,' she complained. 'Take it away. All I want is a glass of hot milk.'

I took her tray back to the kitchen and told Bernard what she had said.

'Oh, she always says my food tastes terrible! Whatever I cook is always ... terrible!'

'She wants a glass of hot milk,' I said.

'Does she?' he said. 'Well I'm not making it for her!'

'I'll make it,' said Miss Vixon. 'Don't worry, Nurse. Go and watch the news on television. I'll take it up to her.'

I watched television until nine thirty. Then I went upstairs.

'I must have another wash and brush my teeth again,' said Mrs Blakemore, 'I've got a nasty taste in my mouth.'

I helped her to get out of bed. 'You are very weak!' I said. 'Tomorrow you really must eat *all* your food.'

'Oh, don't talk to me about food.'

I helped her to walk to the bathroom and stood beside her while she washed. I was afraid she might fall. The toothpaste tube was nearly empty, but she pressed it to get out every bit of toothpaste. She managed to brush her teeth several times. I smiled. I remembered what Bernard had said about her.

'I think your teeth are clean enough now,' I said eventually.

'Yes, that's better,' she sighed. 'Will you get me some more toothpaste tomorrow, Nurse? Here.' She gave me the empty tube. 'This is the kind I like. You'll have to drive to Hastings to get it. They don't sell it in the village. My husband usually gets it for me.'

I put the tube into my apron pocket. Then I put my arm around her to help her go back to bed. It seemed difficult for her to breathe. I wondered if the problem with her heart might be more serious than I had realized. I felt a little worried and decided to telephone Doctor Spencer the next day.

The following morning, as I was getting dressed, there was an urgent knock on my door. It was Stella Vixon. She looked as if she had seen a ghost.

'Nurse! Nurse! Something terrible has happened. Mrs Blakemore's dead.'

Comprehension Check

I. Answer the following questions.

1. Did Mrs Blakemore's mood and appetite improve?
2. What was Bernard's reaction to Mrs Blakemore's refusal to eat the food cooked by him?
3. Did Anne think that Mrs Blakemore was weak because she had been eating very little?
4. Why did Mrs Blakemore want to brush her teeth again and again?
5. What did she ask Anne to do the next day?
6. Who usually bought toothpaste for Mrs Blakemore?
7. What symptoms of her patient's disease seemed alarming to Anne?
8. What news did Stella Vixon break to Anne the next morning?

II. Who made these remarks and under what circumstances?

1. 'Well, I'm not making it for her!'
2. 'Yes, that's better.'
3. 'Take it away!'
4. 'What's she having tonight?'
5. 'I'll take it up to her.'
6. 'This is the kind I like.'
7. As soon as they saw me, they stopped.

Discussion

III. Point to the detail proving that the atmosphere in the house was not quite comfortable for the nurse.

IV. Comment on the use of italics in the following sentence.

'Tomorrow you really must eat *all* your food.'

V. Dwell on the following problem points.

1. Neither the doctor nor Mrs Blakemore herself considered a thorough medical check-up and treatment at a good clinic. Why?
2. The people surrounding Mrs Blakemore thought there was nothing wrong with her. Everybody thought so, but who was to blame for the opinion to a greater extent than the others?
3. Bernard took Mrs Blakemore's refusal to eat as an offence. What could it testify to?
4. Miss Vixon offered to make hot milk and take it up to Mrs Blakemore. Why? Was she kind or did she have a special purpose?

Grammar and Vocabulary

VI. Turn the following statements into indirect speech.

1. 'If you don't eat your food, you won't get better,' I said.
2. 'All I want is a glass of hot milk,' said Mrs Blakemore.
3. 'Whatever I cook is always ... terrible!' said Bernard angrily.

4. Miss Vixon said to the nurse, 'Don't worry, Nurse.'
5. 'You are very weak', I said.
6. 'Go and watch the news on television', said Miss Vixon.
7. 'Oh, don't talk to me about food,' she said.
8. 'I think your teeth are clean enough now,' I said eventually.
9. 'You'll have to drive to Hastings to get it,' said Mrs Blakemore.
10. 'Nurse! Something terrible has happened,' she said.

VII. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate articles, absence of article including.

1. The silence was worse than at ... lunch-time.
2. She gave we ... empty tube. 'This is ... kind I like.'
3. I helped her to get out of ... bed.
4. They don't sell it in ... village.
5. There was ... urgent knock on my door.
6. She looked as if she had seen ... ghost.
7. I put ... tube into my apron pocket.

VIII. Choose the Active or the Passive form of the verb.

1. Bernard remarked that the food which (*to cook*) by him always (*to seem*) terrible to Mrs Blakemore.
2. Mrs Blakemore's favourite kind of toothpaste (*not to sell*) in the village.
3. Usually, toothpaste (*to buy*) for Mrs Blakemore by her husband.
4. That evening, milk (*to take*) up to Mrs Blakemore by Miss Vixon.
5. While Mrs Blakemore (*to wash*), Anne (*to stand*) beside her in the bathroom.
6. Anne (*to advise*) to go and watch the news on television.
7. The following morning terrible news (*to break*) to Anne by Miss Vixon.

IX. Paraphrase the italicized parts of the sentences using the expressions from the text.

1. I hate *to leave food uneaten*.
2. *I only want* a glass of hot milk.
3. She *is constantly saying* my food is terrible.
4. I'll *fetch it to her*.
5. This is my *favourite* kind.
6. It *is not sold* in the village.
7. My husband usually *buys* it for me.

X. Give the Russian for the following English words and word-combinations. Use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

- to feel embarrassed
- to manage to do smth.
- to taste terrible
- to feel a little worried

to hate to do smth.
to have another wash
to put one's arm around smb.

XI. Find in the text the English words and word-combinations corresponding to the following Russian ones. Use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

яичница-глазунья
одеться
смотреть новости по телевизору
всё, что я хочу, это ...
помочь кому-л. встать с кровати

Episode V. A Suspicious Death

I stared at her. I could not believe it.

‘Dead? But there was nothing wrong with her,’ I said. I suddenly felt cold.

‘Oh! What are we going to do?’ she said. ‘I must go and telephone Mr Blakemore at once. He’ll want to come home immediately. Oh! What am I going to say?’

‘Telephone Doctor Spencer, too,’ I said and ran down the corridor.

Mrs Blakemore was lying with her eyes open. The bedside light was still on, and the curtains were closed. The empty milk glass was on the floor by the bed. I lifted her arm, but it was already cold and lifeless. A strange sweet smell was coming from her mouth.

Then Charlotte appeared with the breakfast.

‘I think you had better take it away,’ I said. ‘I’m going to telephone the police.’

‘The police?’ she whispered. ‘Why?’

‘I think Mrs Blakemore has been murdered.’

Soon after I had phoned the police, Doctor Spencer arrived and examined the body.

‘Oh, dear,’ he said. ‘I can’t understand it. ‘It looks as if she may have had a heart attack in the night. She did have a slightly weak heart, but it was nothing serious. I just can’t understand it. I must say, I didn’t think she would die.’

‘No, Doctor, neither did I,’ I said coldly. ‘But perhaps her heart was not the problem. Can you smell that strange sweet smell? I think she’s been poisoned.’

‘Poisoned?’ His hands shook slightly. ‘You can’t be serious!’

‘I’m afraid, I am serious,’ I said. ‘She thought that she was being poisoned. If I had believed her, she might still be alive. She complained that she had pains in her legs, that it was difficult to breathe, and that she felt sick. But I didn’t do anything. Of course, now I remember that all these things can be caused by poison. You know that, too.’

The doctor seemed embarrassed and worried. He looked at Mrs Blakemore, then at me. Then he looked at the door as if he wanted to escape from the room. At last, he said in a quiet voice, 'Well, if that's what you think, I suppose we ought to telephone the police.'

'Don't worry,' I said. 'I've already done that.'

When the police eventually arrived, Miss Vixon brought them in. The man was wearing a dark suit; the woman was in uniform.

'Inspector Braddock and police Constable Hemmings,' announced Miss Vixon.

'Ah! The police... Good,' said Doctor Spencer, nervously. 'I was just saying to the nurse that there is something strange about this death.' He was still looking at the door.

'Has anything been touched or moved from the room?' asked Inspector Braddock.

'No,' said Miss Vixon.

Then he turned and looked at me. 'You're the nurse who telephoned us, aren't you?'

'Yes, that's right,' I said. 'I'm from the nursing agency. I only started work here yesterday.'

'I see,' said the Inspector. 'And you say Mrs Blakemore told you that she thought she was being poisoned?'

'Yes, but I didn't believe her. I thought she was just imagining it. She was a writer, you know. You see, the agency told me she was a bit of a hypochondriac, and everyone said that she wasn't really ill.'

The policewoman picked up the empty chocolate box and smelt it.

'Who gave her these chocolates?' she asked.

'Her nephew,' said Doctor Spencer. 'But you needn't worry. He's our vicar.'

'*Anyone* can be a murderer,' said the Inspector. 'I think we'd better take that box away, Constable. We'll take those bottles of medicine, too, and that bottle of tonic.'

'There's an empty milk glass on the floor here, sir,' PC Hemmings said.

'OK,' said the Inspector. 'Take them all.'

The policewoman put the things into a large plastic bag.

'Did Mrs Blakemore have any dinner last night?' the Inspector asked.

'Yes,' I said. 'She had some scrambled eggs, but she only ate about half. Bernard threw the rest away.'

'Bernard?'

'Bernard, the cook,' I explained.

'I see,' said the Inspector. 'Does anyone else work here?'

'Only Charlotte,' said Miss Vixon. 'She's the maid.'

Inspector Braddock looked out of the window. 'Of course,' he said, 'we can't be sure yet that Mrs Blakemore *was* poisoned. We'll have to wait for the results of the autopsy. Ah! There's the ambulance! They've come to take the body away. Go down and let them in, Constable.'

A few minutes later, as we were going downstairs, the Inspector asked, 'Is there a Mr Blakemore?'

'Yes,' replied Miss Vixon. 'He's been working in Wales for a couple of weeks. I've just phoned him. He's on his way home. He'll be here this evening.'

'Then we'll come back later and speak to him,' said the Inspector. 'Now, before we go, I'd like to speak to Bernard and Charlotte. Where's the kitchen?'

Comprehension Check

I. Answer the following questions.

1. What detail arrested Anne's attention as she was looking at Mrs Blakemore's body?
2. Did the nurse think that Mrs Blakemore had died of a natural cause?
3. What did the doctor say?
4. Who had informed the police about Mrs Blakemore's death?
5. Had Anne shared her suspicions with the police?
6. How did she explain to the police why she hadn't paid great attention to Mrs Blakemore's fear of being poisoned?
7. What remark did Doctor Spencer make when the police entered the room?
8. What measures were taken by the police?
9. What were the police planning to do in the evening?

II. Who made the following remarks?

1. 'Oh! What are we going to do?'
2. 'I'm afraid, I am serious.'
3. 'Don't worry. I've already done that.'
4. 'She was a writer, you see.'
5. 'Take them all.'
6. 'There's the ambulance!'
7. 'Only Charlotte. She's the maid.'
8. 'Where's the kitchen?'
9. 'No, neither did I.'
10. 'You know that, too.'

Discussion

III. Comment on Anne's words and say if you agree with her or not:

'If I had believed her, she might still be alive.'

IV. Why is the word *anyone* italicized in the following sentence?

'*Anyone* can be a murderer.'

V. Dwell on the following points.

1. When Miss Vixon broke the news, Anne suddenly felt cold. Was it merely an emotional reaction or did it dawn on her that Mrs Blakemore might have been poisoned, after all?

2. The nurse spoke coldly to Doctor Spencer. Why?
3. The Doctor agreed with the nurse unwillingly. Why did he not hurry to admit that she was right?

VI. Give proofs to the fact that the police acted professionally.

Grammar and Vocabulary

VII. Turn the following statements and questions into indirect speech. Remember the participants of the conversation.

1. 'Dead? But there was nothing wrong with her.'
2. 'Telephone Doctor Spencer, too.'
3. 'I'm going to telephone the police.'
4. 'Has anything been touched or moved from the room?'
5. 'We'll take those bottles of medicine too.'
6. 'There's an empty milk glass on the floor, here, sir.'
7. 'Did Mrs Blakemore have any dinner last night?'
8. 'Does anyone else work here?'
9. 'We'll have to wait for the results of the autopsy.'
10. 'Go down and let them in, Constable.'
11. 'He has been working in Wales for a couple of weeks.'
12. 'Then we'll come back later and speak to him.'

VIII. Choose the Active or the Passive form of the verb.

1. Anne (to suspect) that Mrs Blakemore (*to murder*).
2. Doctor Spencer arrived soon after he (*to phone*).
3. It (*to know*) that such symptoms (*to cause*) by poison.
4. Anne (*to assure*) the Inspector that nothing (*to touch*) in the room.
5. The Inspector wanted to know if they (*to phone*) by the nurse.
6. All bottles of medicine and the bottle of tonic (*to put*) into a large plastic bag.
7. The police were not sure yet that Mrs Blakemore (*to poison*).
8. When the ambulance (*to arrive*), the body (*to take*) away.

IX. Explain the use of the indefinite article with a proper name and paraphrase the sentence.

'Is there *a* Mr Blakemore?'

X. Translate the following words and word-combinations from the text. Recall the situations in which they are used in the text.

to start work

to escape from the room

to pick smth. up

autopsy

to shake slightly (*of hands*)

to be closed (*of the curtains*)
a strange sweet smell
to feel sick

XI. Give the English for the following Russian words and word-combinations.

выбросить (*оставшуюся еду*)
констебль
быть спровоцированным отравлением
впустить кого-л.
смотреть в изумлении (*широко раскрыв глаза*)
почувствовать сладковатый запах
жаловаться
скорая помощь
выглядеть смущённым и обеспокоенным

XII. Substitute for the italicized parts of the sentences using the corresponding expressions from the text.

1. I think you *should* take it away.
2. I think Mrs Blakemore *has been killed*.
3. She did *have a minor heart trouble*, but it was not serious.
4. Poisoned? *You don't mean it!*
5. Of course, poison *may be at the bottom of it all*.
6. I suppose we *should* telephone the police.
7. I *only began working* here yesterday.
8. Everyone said there was *nothing really wrong with her*.
9. It's *not a certainty yet* that Mrs Blakemore was poisoned.
10. He *is coming* this evening.

Episode VI. Who? How? Why?

I telephoned my parents to tell them what had happened. After that, I went to my room and spent the rest of the day there. I felt very upset about Mrs Blakemore's death. I blamed myself. But I blamed Doctor Spencer and the nursing agency, too, because they had told me that she was a hypochondriac. Why had none of us done anything to help her? She had been sick. She had been really sick. And now she was dead.

At about six o'clock, I realized that I had not eaten anything all day, so I went downstairs. When I reached the hall, I saw that Mr Blakemore had just arrived. Charlotte was taking his suitcase. He was a good-looking man about the same age as his wife, with white hair, but his face was tired and worried. He turned to Miss Vixon, who was standing nearby, and said, 'You'd better come into my study and tell me all about it.' He opened the door for her, politely.

I went into the kitchen to make myself a sandwich. Bernard was there. He was emptying a bottle of milk down the sink.

‘Bernard!’ I said. ‘You know the Inspector doesn’t want us to throw anything away. They may want to examine everything.’

He turned round. ‘Are you suggesting that *I* poisoned her? What about *you*? It’s rather strange, isn’t it? You arrive here, and the very next day Mrs Blakemore is murdered!’

‘Don’t be ridiculous!’ I said. ‘I haven’t got a motive. Anyway, we don’t know if she *was* poisoned yet. We have to wait for the results of the autopsy.’

Suddenly, Stella Vixon rushed in.

‘Nurse Harrison! Quick! Could you come and see Mr Blakemore? He’s terribly upset.’

When I reached his study, he was walking up and down.

‘I think you ought to sit down, Mr Blakemore. Here, let me pour a drink for you.’

‘I want to be with her,’ he said as if he was talking to himself. ‘Why can’t I be with her?’

‘I’m sorry, sir’ I said. ‘They had to take your wife’s body away.’

He put his hands over his face. Then he pushed back his hair with his fingers. At that moment, Charlotte opened the door, without knocking.

‘It’s the police,’ she whispered. ‘They’re here again!’

The police only wanted to speak to Mr Blakemore that night, but the next day they returned and interviewed each of us in detail. Then, the day after that, a lawyer came to read the will. Doctor Spencer and the Reverend Palmer arrived to hear it with the others. I was not invited. I had hardly known Mrs Blakemore, so I spent the morning in my room. Nothing was certain yet, but I felt sure she *had been murdered*. There were three questions: Who? How? Why?

Comprehension Check

I. Answer the following questions.

1. How did Anne feel about Mrs Blakemore's death?
2. Who did she blame for the tragic event?
3. Who did Anne see in the hall on the way to the kitchen?
4. What did Mr Blakemore look like? Did he seem upset?
5. Why did Bernard turn on Anne?
6. How did the nurse react to his accusation?
7. What did Mr Blakemore keep saying? How did Ann interpret it?
8. Why did the police come to the house again that day?
9. What happened the next day?
10. Why was Anne not invited to hear the will?
11. What did she feel sure of?

II. Who and when said the following?

1. 'I think you ought to sit down, Mr Blakemore.'
2. 'You know the inspector doesn't want us to throw anything away.'

3. 'They had to take your wife's body away.'
4. 'You arrive here, and the very next day, Mrs Blakemore is murdered.'
5. 'He's terribly upset.'
6. 'I want to be with her.'

Discussion

III. Substantiate your answers to the following questions.

1. Which members of the household were (*or seemed to be*) the most affected by what had happened? Give proofs from the text.
2. Do you think Bernard really suspected the nurse of murder or did he simply give way to his anger?
3. Did Mr Blakemore express a desire to talk to the nurse in order to learn some more details about the last moments of his wife's life?
4. Why was Anne called to Mr Blakemore's study? Did he produce an impression of a person suffering from acute grief?
5. Did Anne suspect anyone more than the others? What were the three questions that did not leave her mind in peace?

IV. Comment on the cases of italics in the following sentences.

1. 'Are you suggesting that *I* poisoned her? What about *you*?'
2. 'Anyway, we don't know if she *was* poisoned yet.'
3. I felt sure she *had been murdered*.

Grammar and Vocabulary

V. Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions.

1. I felt very upset ... Mrs Blakemore's death.
2. He was a good-looking man ... the same age as his wife.
3. He opened the door ... her, politely.
4. Suddenly, Stella Vixon rushed
5. 'You'd better come ... my study and tell me all ... it.'
6. He put his hands ... his face.
7. Then he pushed ... his hair ... his fingers.

VI. Turn the following statements and questions into indirect speech. Remember the participants of the conversation.

1. 'It's rather strange, isn't it?'
2. 'Are you suggesting that I poisoned her?'
3. 'Could you come and see Mr Blakemore?'
4. 'Why can't I be with her?'
5. 'They may want to examine everything.'
6. 'Here, let me pour a drink for you.'
7. Why had none of us done anything to help her?

VII. Choose the Active or the Passive form of the verb.

1. Mrs Blakemore had been really sick, and she (*not to help*).

2. If Anne (*not to tell*) that her patient (*to be*) a hypochondriac, she might have helped her.
3. Bernard said it was strange that Mrs Blakemore (*to murder*) shortly after Anne had arrived.
4. The next day everybody (*to interview*) in detail.
5. The Doctor and the nephew (*to invite*) to hear the will.
6. Mrs Blakemore's will was (*to read*) by the lawyer.
7. The only thing that (*to matter*) to Anne was that Mrs Blakemore (*to murder*).

VIII. Substitute for the italicized parts of the sentences using the corresponding expressions from the text.

1. 'We *must* wait for the results of the autopsy.'
2. 'Could you come and see Mr Blakemore? He's terribly *affected*.'
3. 'I think you *had better* sit down, Mr Blakemore.'
4. 'It's the police. They *have come again*.'
5. 'Don't be *stupid*! I haven't got a motive.'
6. You could not *be sure* about anything yet.
7. She had been really *sick*.

IX. Give the English for the following Russian words and word-combinations. Use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

вскрытие
 подробно
 допрашивать
 зачитать завещание
 ходить взад-вперёд
 нелепый
 винить кого-л. в чём-л.
 иметь мотив
 быть одного возраста с кем-л.
 без стука

X. Translate into Russian the following English words and word-combinations. Remember the situations in which they occur in the text.

to be terribly upset
 to empty a bottle of milk down the sink
 the very next day
 to stand nearby
 to make oneself a sandwich
 to rush in
 to throw away
 to talk to oneself
 to open the door for smb.

to put one's hands over one's face

Episode VII. The Will And the Motives

I made a list of the suspects on a sheet of paper and tried to work out who could have done it.

1. *Was it her nephew, the Reverend Palmer, with his boxes of chocolates? Did he murder her for the money to repair the village church?*
2. *Was it Doctor Spencer, with his medicines and injections? Did he think she would leave him some money?*
3. *Was it Bernard, the cook? Did he poison her food? Why did he say 'I would poison her myself, if I could think of a good way to do it?' Why did he hate Mrs Blakemore?*
4. *Was it Charlotte, the maid? Did she put something in Mrs Blakemore's food when she was carrying the trays? Does she think Mr Blakemore will marry her now?*
5. *Was it Stella Vixon, the housekeeper? Did she poison the hot milk? Why does she seem so strange?*
6. *They all have a secret.*

Later that afternoon, Charlotte came to find me. She told me the police had come back and that the Inspector wanted me to go to the study with the others. He wanted to speak to all of us.

'We now have the results of the autopsy,' he announced. He looked around us. 'Mrs Blakemore *was* poisoned. We think that she had been given small amounts of arsenic for some weeks, to make her weak. It seems, however, that another poison, cyanide, finally killed her.'

He looked around at us all. Everyone seemed nervous and uncomfortable. Stella Vixon was even paler than usual. Doctor Spencer wiped his face with his handkerchief and cleaned his glasses.

Inspector Braddock continued. 'Now then... What could have been the motive for this murder? Well, the motive for murder is nearly always... money.'

The Reverend Palmer frowned and looked down at his hands. He seemed embarrassed.

'In her will, Mrs Blakemore left everything to her nephew. She has left him nearly half a million pounds. It appears that she left nothing to anyone else... and nothing to her husband, except what is in the house. This seems a bit strange.'

'No, there's nothing strange about it,' said Mr Blakemore quietly. 'Kitty always said she was going to leave everything to her nephew. She had no children of her own, you see, and she was very fond of her sister. So, when her sister died, she decided to look after her sister's son. Anyway, she didn't need to leave me any money. She knew I was a wealthy man, and this house is all mine.'

'I see,' said the Inspector. 'Well, Reverend Palmer, it seems that you *too* are now a wealthy man. What luck! It looks as if you'll be able to repair that church of yours, doesn't it? You have no problems now.'

The Reverend Palmer looked even more embarrassed and moved his hands together nervously. His face went red, but he said nothing.

The Inspector continued. 'Constable Hemmings, will you please read those lines about Doctor Spencer in the will?'

The policewoman stood up and read from the will.

'I know Doctor Spencer is expecting a little reward. Please tell him it was only a joke. I'm sure he'll understand.'

'So, Doctor,' said the Inspector, 'Mrs Blakemore said that she would leave you some money, didn't she?'

'Well, ... yes.' The Doctor was cleaning his glasses again, nervously. 'I thought she might give me some... small reward... for my help.' Then he was silent.

'Oh, how terrible!' said Charlotte. 'What a cruel joke!'

Police Constable told her to be quiet.

'If you expected some money,' continued the Inspector, 'then perhaps you too had a motive for murder.'

'Oh really! This is ridiculous!' Doctor Spencer stood up. 'I won't listen to any more of this. I'm a doctor, not a murderer!'

'We shall see,' said the Inspector. 'Sit down again please, sir.' He sighed and continued. 'I believe that Mrs Blakemore was not an easy person to live with. Some of you have told me that she was a difficult person. You have said that she was often rude and unkind. Is that true?'

'Well,' Mr Blakemore said quietly, 'it's true she could be difficult sometimes. You see, she was an intelligent woman, and she didn't like fools.'

'Ah yes, of course,' said Inspector Braddock. 'She was a writer, an artist. However, sir, not all artists are rude and difficult. You're a composer, aren't you? And yet *you* seem to be a polite and gentle man.'

'That's because he's a nicer person than she was!' said Charlotte hotly. 'He was too good for her!'

'I see.' The Inspector looked closely at her. 'You didn't like Mrs Blakemore, did you?'

'No, I didn't!' said Charlotte, angrily.

'Perhaps she didn't like you either,' he suggested.

'Nevertheless, she was kind enough to give you a job here, wasn't she? She gave you a job even though you didn't have a reference. They dismissed you from your last job, didn't they? You were dismissed because you stole things, and you left without a reference. And yet Mrs Blakemore accepted you here.'

'How do you know all that?' cried Charlotte. 'What proof have you got?'

'We've been asking a lot of questions,' said the Inspector. He turned away from her suddenly and looked at Bernard. 'Tell us something, Bernard.'

'I don't know what you want to know,' he replied.

'Well,' said the Inspector, 'how long have you known Mrs Blakemore?'

'I've worked here for six years,' he said, frowning.

'Six years? Yes, but you first met her a long time ago. I've been talking to your mother, Bernard, and she said she used to be Mrs Blakemore's maid, years ago, in London. You remember, don't you, Bernard?'

Comprehension Check

I. Answer the following questions.

1. Who did Anne include in the list of suspects? Did each of them have a motive?
2. What did the results of the autopsy indicate to?
3. What, in the Inspector's opinion, might have been the motive for the murder?
4. Why did Mrs Blakemore's will seem strange to the Inspector?
5. What explanation did Mr Blakemore give to the Inspector?
6. Who did Inspector Braddock begin the procedure with?
7. What was Doctor Spencer's emotional reaction to the Inspector's suspicion?
8. How did Charlotte react to Mrs Blakemore's joke concerning the Doctor?
9. How did Mr Blakemore justify his wife's rudeness?
10. What did Inspector Braddock say about Charlotte?
11. Who did the Inspector turn to after he had stopped speaking to Charlotte?
12. Why did the Inspector believe that Bernard was not out of suspicion?

II. Say if it is true or false.

1. Mr Blakemore was the only person who was not included in the list of suspects made by Anne.
2. All those present seemed nervous and uncomfortable.
3. Mr Blakemore was surprised to hear that his wife had left him nothing in her will.
4. Charlotte was quiet and did not make any remarks.
5. Mr Blakemore criticized his wife.
6. The Inspector did not exclude the Reverend Palmer from the list of suspects.
7. Stella Vixon was the only person who seemed to be unaffected.

III. Who and when said it?

1. 'He was too good for her.'
2. 'How do you know all that?'
3. 'Tell us something, Bernard.'
4. 'Oh really! This is ridiculous!'
5. 'When her sister died, she decided to look after her sister's son.'
6. 'Please tell him it was only a joke.'
7. 'Perhaps she didn't like you either.'
8. 'You see, she was an intelligent woman and she didn't like fools.'
9. 'She was a writer, an artist.'
10. 'What luck!'

Discussion

IV. Answer the following questions and prove your point.

1. Why didn't the Reverend Palmer say a word in his defence?
2. Do you think Doctor Spencer could really have murdered his patient in order to get a financial reward?
3. Charlotte was always critical of Mrs Blakemore. Did she herself look a nice person in the eyes of all those present after the Inspector's words?
4. When the Inspector admitted that Mrs Blakemore had probably not been an easy person to deal with, did he say that on purpose? Did he want to provoke the suspects into sincerity?
5. Did Inspector Braddock admit that hate might also be a motive for murder?
6. Was the Inspector fair and impartial in his attitude to the late Mrs Blakemore?

V. Comment on the cases of italics in the following sentences.

1. 'Mrs Blakemore *was* poisoned.'
2. 'And yet *you* seem a polite and gentle man.'
3. 'Well, Reverend Palmer, it seems that you *too* are now a wealthy man.'

Grammar and Vocabulary

VI. Turn the following statements into indirect speech. Remember the participants of the conversation.

1. 'Well, the motive for murder is almost always ... money.'
2. 'I know Doctor Spencer is expecting a little reward.'
3. 'If you expected some money, you may have had a motive for murder.'
4. 'I won't listen to any more of this. I'm a doctor, not a murderer.'
5. 'I believe that Mrs Blakemore was not an easy person to live with.'
6. 'However, sir, not all artists are rude and difficult.'
7. 'I don't know what you want to know.'
8. 'Nevertheless she was kind enough to give you a job here, wasn't she?'
9. 'I have worked here for six years.'
10. 'We've been asking a lot of questions.'
11. 'Well, how long have you known Mrs Blakemore?'
12. 'You were dismissed because you stole things, and you left without a reference.'

VII. Choose the Active or the Passive form of the verb.

1. That afternoon, Anne (*to invite*) to the study with the others.
2. The results of the autopsy (*to announce*) by the Inspector.
3. It appeared that Mrs Blakemore (*to give*) small amounts of arsenic to make her weak.
4. However, it (*to be*) cyanide that she finally (*to kill*) by.
5. All Mrs Blakemore's money (*to leave*) to her nephew.
6. Everybody (*to be*) shocked by the news.
7. The Inspector said that nearly half a million pounds (*to leave*) to the Reverend Palmer.
8. Charlotte (*to give*) a job in the Grange without a reference.
9. Mrs Blakemore (*to say*) to be a difficult person.

10. When the Doctor (*to hear*) that he (*to give*) no reward, he (*to be*) astonished and disappointed.

11. Not a word (*to say*) by the Reverend Palmer when he (*to congratulate*) by the Inspector on his luck.

12. Mrs Blakemore's rudeness (*to excuse readily*) by her husband.

VIII. Give the English for the following Russian words and word-combinations. Use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

составить список

быть уволенным

рекомендательное письмо

протереть очки

небольшое вознаграждение

последнее место работы

быть смущённым

вздохнуть

сказать спокойно

IX. Translate the following English words and word-combinations into Russian. Remember the situations in which they occur in the text.

not to be an easy person to live with

to look closely at smb.

to make smb. weak

autopsy

to frown

to say smth. hotly

to accept smb.

to seem nervous

X. Paraphrase the italicized parts of the sentences using the corresponding expressions from the text.

1. She has left nothing to her husband, *with the exception of* what is in the house.

2. This seems a bit *odd*.

3. She knew I was *well off*.

4. She *loved* her sister very much.

5. There *was no need for her* to leave me any money.

6. Oh really! This is *absurd!* I'm a doctor, not a murderer!

7. '*It remains to be seen*', said the Inspector.

8. I believe Mrs Blakemore was *hard to get along with*.

9. She was a *clever* woman, and she didn't like fools.

10. And yet, Mrs Blakemore *gave you a job here*.

11. How can you *prove* it?

12. What a *heartless* joke!

Episode VIII. Evidence of Poison Missing

Bernard said nothing. He touched his bad leg and looked unhappy. He seemed ashamed.

'You remember, don't you, Bernard? You were the maid's child, weren't you? A poor little boy, born with a damaged leg. Your mother worked for the rich lady in the big house.'

I noticed that Stella Vixon was looking at Bernard. She seemed sorry for him. I realized, with some surprise, that she was not as cold and hard as I had thought. The Inspector had not finished, however. 'You needed an operation on your leg, didn't you? But it was too expensive. Mrs Blakemore could have paid for a private doctor, but she wouldn't help you, would she?'

Bernard suddenly broke his silence. 'She was so *mean!*' he cried angrily. 'My mother begged her for the money, but she refused. Then, soon after that, she dismissed my mother, for no reason!'

'Yes, I know,' said the Inspector, calmly. 'Then, years later, you came to work for Mrs Blakemore yourself. It's strange, isn't it? I suggest that you came to work here because you wanted revenge. You wanted to hurt her.'

Bernard laughed. 'It's true that I hated her,' he said. 'But at first I didn't know that it was the same woman. Believe me, Inspector, I was surprised to see her again. I stayed because I like living in the country. There are other reasons, too.' He looked over at Charlotte, but she looked away from him angrily. He smiled. 'I'm sorry, but I didn't kill Mrs Blakemore, Inspector. It wasn't me.'

'We shall see,' said Inspector Braddock. 'I am looking at all the possibilities. I must say it seems that nearly everyone here had a motive for murder and the chance to do it. However, there's something that worries me. Tell them about the poisons, Constable Hemmings.'

The policewoman explained the problem.

'We have examined all the things we took from Mrs Blakemore's bedroom, but at the moment we cannot find any evidence of poison. We know that she was poisoned, because we found arsenic and cyanide in her stomach, but we still don't know how. We suspect that the poisoned food or drink or medicine had been thrown away before we arrived. We want to question you all again tomorrow. We must find out how she was poisoned.'

She sat down and looked carefully at each of us. I remembered that Bernard had thrown away some milk. I wondered if he was guilty. I even began to feel guilty myself.

Inspector Braddock sighed. He wrote some notes on a piece of paper. He frowned and said something in a quiet voice to Constable Hemmings. I looked round the room at everyone. The Reverend Palmer sat very straight in his chair, his lips tightly closed. Bernard looked at the Inspector angrily. Doctor Spencer was wiping his face and his glasses again. Charlotte had begun to look rather frightened, and as if she might begin to cry. Stella Vixon's face was red and she was looking down at her hands, as if she were in pain. I moved my eyes back

across the room and noticed something. For a second, only a second or two, Mr. Blakemore lifted his head and looked at her. There was something mysterious in his eyes.

‘OK. That’s all for today,’ said Inspector Braddock. ‘We’ll come back tomorrow to talk to you all again. Sleep well!’

After the police had gone, I felt worried, but I wasn’t sure why. I felt as if I had forgotten *something* strange and I didn’t know what it was.

Stella Vixon was quieter than usual during dinner. She hardly looked at any of us. She was usually so calm and controlled, but now she seemed frightened for some reason. I wondered why Mr Blakemore had looked at her in that strange way.

Later that evening, at about ten o’clock, I left my room and went down the corridor to the bathroom. On my way back, I thought I heard the sound of crying. I listened. It seemed to be coming from Miss Vixon’s room. When I reached her door, I listened again. Then I knocked.

‘It’s me... Nurse Harrison’, I said. ‘Is anything wrong?’

Eventually the handle turned and the door opened a little. ‘Can I come in?’

When she let me in, I saw she was very upset about something. Her eyes were quite red and sore.

‘What’s the matter?’

‘Oh, I can’t tell you,’ she whispered. ‘I can’t tell anyone!’

‘Sit down here on the bed and relax,’ I suggested. ‘Tell me what the problem is.’ She looked at me for a moment, then she hid her face in her hands.

‘I didn’t want her to die,’ she said.

‘Who? Mrs Blakemore?’

‘Yes.’ She breathed deeply. ‘She wasn’t always a very nice woman, I know, but it’s terrible. Someone has murdered her.’

I put my arm around her. I realized for the first time why Stella Vixon was so different from the others in the house. She was the only one who seemed a really nice person. I could see now that she had a kind heart. It was true – she had never said anything nasty about Mrs Blakemore when she was alive. I felt sure that whoever the murderer was it wasn’t her.

‘Please go,’ she said. ‘Please, you must go now.’

‘Are you sure I can’t help you?’ I was worried. She seemed so frightened.

‘No.’ She shook her head ‘I’m sorry. It’s my own private problem.’

‘Well, try to get some rest,’ I said. ‘I’ll see you in the morning.’

‘Yes. Thank you, Nurse. Good night.’

Comprehension Check

I. Answer the following questions.

1. What was Bernard's story as told by the Inspector?
2. How did Bernard explain his conduct?
3. What was the difficulty the police met with in the process of investigation?
4. How could absence of evidence affect the results of the investigation?
5. How did everybody react to the news?
6. What did Anne notice about Mr Blakemore's glance at Miss Vixon?

7. Could the nurse tell why she felt worried?
8. How did Anne come to know Miss Vixon better?
9. What made the nurse feel that Miss Vixon was innocent?

II. Who said it and when?

1. 'What's the matter?'
2. 'Tell me what the problem is.'
3. 'It's strange, isn't it?'
4. 'We shall see.'
5. 'It wasn't me.'
6. 'Try to get some rest!'

Discussion

III. Substantiate your answers to the following questions.

1. Did Bernard speak convincingly, though he had confessed that he hated Mrs Blakemore?
2. What might be another reason for Bernard to go on working in the Grange?
3. At what moment did Anne begin to suspect Bernard?
4. Why, do you think, was Miss Vixon crying that evening? Was it only sympathy for Mrs Blakemore or did she feel that she was somehow guilty of her death?
5. Do you think it was important for the nurse to hear Miss Vixon cry and have a talk with her in her room?

IV. Comment on the cases of italics in the following sentences.

1. 'She was so *mean!*'
2. I felt as if I had forgotten *something* strange and I didn't know what it was.

V. Do you suspect anyone more than the others at this stage of investigation?

Grammar and Vocabulary

VI. Fill in the gaps with the appropriate prepositions.

1. She seemed sorry ... him.
2. 'You needed an operation ... your leg, didn't you?'
3. 'My mother begged her ... the money, but she refused.'
4. 'I must say it seems that nearly everyone here had a motive ... murder.'
5. I remembered that Bernard had thrown ... some milk.
6. I saw she was very upset ... something.
7. She seemed frightened ... some reason.
8. On my way ..., I thought I heard the sound ... crying
9. She looked ... me ... a moment, then she hid her face ... her hands.

VII. Turn the following statements into indirect speech. Remember the participants of the conversation.

1. 'Someone has murdered her.'
2. 'I didn't want her to die.'

3. 'We want to question you all again tomorrow.'
4. 'I'm sorry, but I didn't kill Mrs Blakemore.'
5. 'Well, try to get some rest.'
6. 'However, there's something that worries me.'
7. 'We have examined all the things we took from Mrs Blakemore's bedroom, but at the moment we cannot find any evidence of poison.'
8. 'Tell them about the poisons, Constable Hemmings.'
9. 'I stayed here because I like living in the country.'
10. 'She dismissed her without any reason.'
11. 'We know that she was poisoned, because we found arsenic and cyanide in her stomach, but we still don't know how.'
12. 'We'll come back tomorrow to talk to you all again.'

VIII. Choose the Active or the Passive form of the verb.

1. Bernard said that his mother (*to dismiss*) for no reason.
2. Bernard's leg (*not to operate*) because Mrs Blakemore (*to refuse*) to pay for the operation.
3. The Constable said that the evidence of poison (*to miss*).
4. Anne (*to see*) that Miss Vixon (*to be terribly affected*).
5. The nurse (*to note*) that not a single bad word (*to say*) by Miss Vixon about Mrs Blakemore when she was alive.
6. The Inspector (*to say*) that the poisoned food (*to throw away*) before they (*to arrive*).
7. Bernard (*to give*) an angry look by Charlotte when she (*to understand*) that he (*to stay*) in the Grange because of her.
8. Mrs Blakemore could (*not to forgive*) by Bernard.

IX. Paraphrase the italicized parts of the sentences using the corresponding expressions from the text.

1. A poor little boy, born with a *bad* leg.
2. Mrs Blakemore could have paid for a private doctor, but *she didn't, did she?*
3. She was so *greedy!*
4. Then, soon after that, she *discharged* my mother, for no reason.
5. I'm sorry, but I didn't *murder* Mrs Blakemore, Inspector.
6. You wanted *to make her feel pain*.
7. I am *considering all the possibilities*.
8. 'It's true that I *resented* her.'
9. Please, *leave me now*.
10. Well, try *to recuperate*.

X. Give the English for the following Russian words and word-combinations. Use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

сочувствовать кому-л.
прооперировать ногу

безо всякой причины
месть
узнать (*обнаружить*)
улика
виновный
допрашивать
попытаться отдохнуть
просить денег у кого-л.
прервать молчание
подозревать

XI. Translate into Russian the following English words and word-combinations. Remember the situations in which they occur in the text.

to look frightened
something mysterious
to shake one's head
to be one's own private problem
eventually
to feel worried
to hide one's face in one's hands
to put one's arm around smb.
to lift one's head
to breathe deeply

Episode IX. The Outcome

I felt so worried about her that I decided to go and speak to Charlotte. I wondered if she knew anything about it. I went along the corridor and knocked on her door.

‘Charlotte? May I come in?’

When I got no reply, I knocked again. I didn’t care if she was asleep. This was too important. Eventually she opened her door and stood there, rubbing her eyes.

‘What is it?’ she asked, sleepily.

‘Let me in, Charlotte,’ I said. ‘I want to talk to you.’

‘I’m half asleep,’ she complained, but she let me in. She climbed back into her bed and I sat down beside her.

‘I’ve just seen Miss Vixon,’ I told her. ‘I heard her crying. Have you any idea why she is so upset?’

‘No. It’s none of my business what she does. She can do what she likes. I don’t care.’

‘You don’t like her, do you? Why?’

She did not reply. Instead, she sighed, as if she were bored. She began to play with something on one of her fingers. I saw, with surprise, that she was wearing a diamond ring.

‘That’s pretty,’ I said. ‘Where did you get it from?’

‘It’s mine,’ she said, quickly. Then she hid the ring with her other hand. ‘Someone gave it to me.’

‘Is it one of Mrs Blakemore’s rings?’ I asked her.

‘I didn’t take it!’ She went red. ‘He gave it to me.’

‘Who gave it to you?’

She would not answer.

‘Charlotte,’ I said as gently as I could, ‘do you mean that it was Mr Blakemore who gave you the ring?’

She started to cry quietly, angrily, but she didn’t answer. Then suddenly she said, ‘I *saw* them. He was trying to kiss her.’

‘Who?’

‘I went into the study with some wood for the fire. It was in February. I saw them.’

Charlotte’s eyes became darker. ‘Why did he want *her*?’ she said suddenly, to herself. She sounded jealous.

‘What? Who did you see?’

‘Mr Blakemore, of course.’

I tried to understand. ‘Charlotte ... you went into the study and saw Mr Blakemore trying to kiss his wife? Is that right?’

‘No, silly!’ she cried. ‘*Miss Vixon!*’

I stared at her in astonishment. She started to cry, nervously.

‘Later he gave me this little ring and told me to be a good girl,’ she whispered. ‘He said it would be our little secret.’

I was so shocked that I couldn’t say anything. A hundred different thoughts went through my head. I remembered the strange look Mr Blakemore had given Miss Vixon in the study that afternoon, and the look of embarrassment and pain on her face.

‘I don’t know why he wanted *her*,’ said Charlotte. ‘He wanted her to marry him. But she told him not to be silly. He was already married.’

She looked at me sadly and dried her blue eyes. Then I remembered something. Mr Blakemore had said, ‘I want to be with her. Why can’t I be with her?’ Now I understood. He hadn’t been talking about his wife that night. He had been talking about Stella Vixon.

‘You’ve been a bit silly yourself, Charlotte,’ I said gently. ‘Mr Blakemore is far too old for you. I’m sure one day you’ll meet someone who is right for you. You’d better go to sleep now and get some rest. I’m afraid you’ll have to tell all this to the police tomorrow morning.’

‘The police? Why?’

‘It may be important,’ I said. ‘It may help them to solve the murder of Mrs Blakemore.’ She looked at me with big frightened eyes.

'Will they want me to give the ring back?'

'I don't know, Charlotte,' I said. 'Anyway, there are more important things than your ring.'

I left her. Outside, I began to shake with fear. Did Mr Blakemore murder his wife? No! It was impossible. He hadn't been in the house. And yet... Again I felt that there was something I had forgotten about. What *was* it?

Suddenly, I heard footsteps. I quickly hid myself in the shadows against the wall. I saw the shape of a man at the end of the corridor. He started to come towards me. My heart was beating fast. When he reached Stella Vixon's door, he stopped and knocked several times, quietly. When she didn't answer, he knocked again, louder this time.

'Stella!' I heard a low, urgent voice. '*It's me – Edward!* I must speak to you. Let me in. You mustn't refuse me. You can't refuse me. Not *now*.'

He was trying to open the door, but it was locked. At last, he went away.

I opened Charlotte's door. 'Charlotte! Quick! Get out of bed. Lock your door. And don't open it again to anyone tonight. Not to *anyone*.'

I hurried back to my room and locked my own door. I was still shaking. It was *him*. *He* had done it. Yes, Mr Blakemore had murdered his wife! And yet ... it was impossible. He had been away in Wales. He hadn't even been in the house on the night of her death. He couldn't have done it. Or could he? I got into bed and lay down. I wondered how he could have poisoned her. Perhaps he had put the poison into something *before* he went away. Maybe, he had put the poison into something that she ate or drank, something that he had left behind for her while he was away. Again, I had a strange feeling that there was something I had forgotten about. What was it? ...

I closed my eyes, but couldn't go to sleep. My head was full of pictures ... pictures and voices. I saw Mr. Blakemore's face and heard his words, 'You can't refuse me now.' Then I saw Miss Vixon's face. Her eyes were red, and she whispered, 'I didn't want her to die. It's terrible... Someone has murdered Mrs Blakemore!' I sat up and put the light on again.

Midnight. It was going to be a long night. Suddenly, I remembered Mrs Blakemore on the evening of her death. She was pale and thin. I was helping her into her bathroom to wash. She wanted to brush her teeth. She wanted to wash away the nasty taste in her mouth. Then what? Oh, yes, she finished the toothpaste. I had to get her some more. It was an unusual type. Her husband ... *Her husband usually bought it for her in Hastings!* I opened my eyes, got out of bed and went to the cupboard. I found my uniform, put my hand into the apron pocket and touched something hard and cold. It was the empty toothpaste tube. Of course! Of course! I turned it over in my hands.

'If I were a murderer,' I thought, 'and if I wanted to be sure that no one would suspect me, what would I do? I would arrange to be far away from the scene of crime. I would put the poison into something that I could be sure that my victim would use. I would put it into something that no one would ever suspect ... something that would be thrown away when it was empty. There would be no evidence.'

It was a large tube... big enough to use for a couple of weeks. I turned the top, and I smelt that strange sweet smell again.

But how could he have put the poison into the toothpaste? Injections, probably? Yes, injections of arsenic deep into the tube, through the opening. And what about the cyanide at the bottom? It was a long tube - too long for most needles.

I examined the tube very carefully. I was looking for marks on the outside. Yes, there were two very small holes in the metal, near the end.

So, it had nearly been a perfect murder. Mr Blakemore had made sure that he was away ... far away in Wales. So no one would ever suspect him. He had put the poison into the toothpaste. No one would ever think of that. His wife would use it every day until it was finished. And the empty tube? It would be thrown away! So there would never be any evidence.

I put the tube back into my apron pocket. It was safe there. I would show it to Inspector Braddock in the morning. I washed my hands carefully and climbed back into bed. I tried to go to sleep, but that was impossible. Every time I closed my eyes, I seemed to see Mrs Blakemore in her bathroom. She was trying to get out every last bit ... every last bit of the toothpaste. And I could hear Bernard's voice, 'Do you know, she's so mean that she always uses up the last little bit of everything.'

Comprehension Check

I. Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Anne decide to visit Charlotte?
2. What did she learn from her?
3. Why did Charlotte dislike Miss Vixon?
4. Why was Charlotte afraid to tell the story to the police?
5. What scene did Anne witness in the corridor?
6. What conclusion did she draw?
7. Why did she tell Charlotte to lock the door?
8. Why was Anne in two minds concerning Mr Blakemore's role in poisoning?
9. What helped her to get to the root of the matter?
10. What was she going to do with the evidence?

II. Who said it and when?

1. 'It may help them to solve the murder of Mrs Blakemore.'
2. 'Is it one of Mrs Blakemore's rings?'
3. 'Quick! Get out of bed.'
4. 'Anyway, there are more important things than your ring.'
5. 'No! It was impossible.'
6. 'I'm sure one day you'll meet someone who is right for you.'
7. 'The police? Why?'
8. 'It's none of my business what she does.'
9. 'I'm half asleep.'
10. 'You don't like her, do you? Why?'

Discussion

III. Comment on the following cases of italics.

1. 'You can't refuse me. Not *now*.'
2. 'Don't open the door tonight. Not to *anyone*.'
3. And yet again I felt that there was something I had forgotten about. What *was* it?

IV. Give your answers to the following questions.

1. After her talk with Charlotte, Anne hurried to her room and locked the door. Was she excited and acted on an impulse or was she afraid of anything? Was there anything or anybody for her to be afraid of? In what case?

2. What had Mr Blakemore overlooked? What had he overestimated or underestimated?

3. Was it possible that the Inspector might start suspecting Mr Blakemore or was he likely to be out of suspicion to the end of the investigation? (*if the police never learnt about the tube of toothpaste*).

4. In the light of the results of her investigation, could Ann understand why Miss Vixon had been crying in her room? Did she feel so upset about Mrs Blakemore's death or did she guess who and why might have poisoned Mrs Blakemore?

5. Do you think Miss Vixon was in the know of Mr Blakemore's criminal plans? What could she blame herself for?

6. Would Miss Vixon try to conceal the whole truth from the Inspector? Would she have testified against Mr Blakemore if Anne hadn't revealed the murderer?

7. Could the nurse have simply thrown the empty tube away without telling anything to the police? What qualities would she have revealed in that case?

8. Was it possible for Mrs Blakemore to escape her tragic end?

9. Can you justify the Doctor for the fact that he had not suspected anything? Was it simply indifference and lack of professionalism on his part or was the case more complicated than that? Could he suspect murder?

10. Do you think Anne would have saved her patient if she had been hired earlier and had stayed there longer?

11. Would Mr Blakemore be arrested and tried for the murder of his wife?

12. Would he deny or admit his guilt? Would he try to shift the blame on to somebody else, saying, for example, that it was not he who had injected the poison into the tube of toothpaste?

13. Whose fingerprints were there on the tube? Could Mr Blakemore have erased his own fingerprints?

14. Did anyone, besides Mrs Blakemore and Ann, know that it was Mr Blakemore who used to buy toothpaste for his wife?

15. Would it be easy to prove his guilt? What would testify against him?

V. Prove or disprove the following statement:

But for the nurse, the police would not have solved the case completely.

VI. If you were Miss Harrison, would you have carried out your own investigation or would you have quietly left the place? What made her behave the way she did?

VII. What personal qualities had helped Anne to disclose the case? See, if any of them are among those mentioned below. Add your own, if possible.

being an observant person
the ability to think logically
smartness
the ability to put everything to doubt
the desire to help
the sense of justice
the feeling of responsibility
sympathy for others
honesty and decency
having all the makings of a detective

VIII. Comment on the statement: *So, it had nearly been a perfect murder.*

Grammar and Vocabulary

IX. Turn the following statements and questions into indirect speech. Remember the participants of the conversation.

1. 'Have you any idea why she is so upset?'
2. 'Where did you get it from?'
3. 'I've just seen Miss Vixon.'
4. 'Is it one of Mrs Blakemore's rings?'
5. 'Who gave it to you?'
6. 'Who did you see?'
7. 'He said it would be our little secret.'
8. 'Will they want me to give the ring back?'
9. 'You'd better go to sleep now and get some rest.'
10. 'I'm afraid you'll have to tell all this to the police tomorrow morning.'

X. Choose the Active or the Passive form of the verb.

1. Charlotte (*to admit*) that the ring (*to give*) to her by Mr Blakemore.
2. She was afraid the ring (*to take*) away from her.
3. Anne (*to wonder*) whether the poison (*to put*) into something Mr Blakemore ate or drank.
4. Mr Blakemore (*to want*) to speak to Miss Vixon, but her door (*to lock*).
5. Arsenic (*to inject*) into the tube through the opening.
6. Two tiny holes (*to make*) in the metal, near the end.
7. She would use the toothpaste until it (*to finish*).
8. Something that would be thrown away and (*not to find*).
9. Could the murder (*to commit*) by Mr Blakemore?

10. The tube (*to be*) too long for the injection (*to make*) through the opening.

XI. Give the English for the following Russian words and word-combinations. Use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

покраснеть
раскрыть убийство
место преступления
жертва
странное чувство
смущение
слышать шаги
крошечные отверстия
отмыть неприятный привкус во рту
дрожать от страха

XII. Translate the following English words and word-combinations into Russian. Remember the situations in which they occur in the text.

to sound jealous
to refuse smb.
to turn the top (*of the tube*)
to look for marks on the outside
to stare at smb. in astonishment
to be beating fast (*of the heart*)
urgent voice
to finish the toothpaste
to arrange to be far away
to be safe

XIII. Paraphrase the following sentences using the synonymous expressions from the text.

1. Have you any idea why she is so *distressed*?
2. He asked me to *keep it a secret*.
3. She told him not to be *ridiculous*.
4. Mr Blakemore is *much older than you*.
5. It may help them *throw some light on Mrs Blakemore's murder*.
6. Will I *have to give the ring back*?
7. I am sure one day you'll meet someone who *suits you more*.
8. I want to *have a talk* with you.
9. I was so *amazed* that I couldn't say anything.
- 10 I was still *trembling*.
11. No! It was *out of the question*.
12. I remembered the *queer* look Mr Blakemore had given Miss Vixon in the study that afternoon.

The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place

after A. Conan Doyle

Read the episodes and do the tasks following them.

Episode I. A New Case

Sherlock Holmes looked impatiently at his watch. 'I had a new client calling, but he is overdue. By the way, Watson, you know something of racing?'

'I think I do. What exactly do you want to know?'

'I should like to know something about Sir Robert Norberton. Does the name tell you anything?'

'Well, I should say so. He lives in Shoscombe Old Place and he is about the most daredevil rider in England - second in the Grand National a few years back. He is also a boxer and an athlete. But people say he is a dangerous man.'

'How is that?' said Holmes.

'Everybody knows that he horsewhipped Sam Brewer once.'

'And who is Sam Brewer?'

'He is a well-known Curzon Street money-lender, on Newmarket Heath.'

'Ah,' said Holmes, 'that sounds interesting. Now, Watson, can you give me some idea of Shoscombe Old Place?'

'Only that it is in the centre of Shoscombe Park and that the famous Shoscombe stud and training quarters are there.'

'And the head trainer,' said Holmes, 'is John Mason. Don't look surprised at my knowledge; Watson, for this is a letter from him which I have in my hand. But let us have some more about Shoscombe.'

'There are the Shoscombe spaniels,' I said. 'You hear of them at every dog show. The most exclusive breed in England. They are the special pride of the lady of Shoscombe Old Place.'

'Sir Robert Norberton's wife, I presume.'

'No,' I said, 'Sir Robert has never been married. Just as well, I think, considering his prospects. He lives with his widowed sister, Lady Beatrice Falder.'

'You mean that she lives with him?'

'No, no. The place belonged to her late husband, Sir James. Norberton has no claim on it at all. When she dies, it will go to her husband's brother. Meantime, she draws the rents every year.'

'And brother Robert, I suppose, spends the rents?'

'Yes,' I said. 'He gives her a lot of trouble, and still I have heard that she is very fond of him. But what is wrong at Shoscombe?'

'Ah, that is just what I want to know. And here, I think, is the man who can tell us.'

Comprehension Check

I. Answer the following questions.

1. Who was Sherlock Holmes waiting for?
2. Why did he want to know more about horse-racing?
3. What kind of man was Sir Robert Norberton?
4. Who was his worst enemy?
5. What had Sir Robert done to Sam Brewer once?
6. Why did Holmes know the name of Sir Robert's head trainer?
7. Who was to inherit Shoscombe Old Place when Lady Beatrice died?
8. What was Sir Robert's marital and financial status?
9. How did Sir Robert get on with his sister?
10. Did Holmes have a clear picture of what was wrong at Shoscombe Old Place from the letter he had received from the head trainer?

II. Complete the following sentences.

1. Sam Brewer was ...
2. The lady of Shoscombe Old Place was very proud of ...
3. The letter Holmes was holding in his hand was from ...
4. Sir Robert lived with ...
5. He gave his sister a lot of trouble, and still Lady Beatrice was ...
6. Sir Robert was known as ... in England.
7. You could hear of ... at every dog show.
8. He is also a boxer and ...
9. The place belonged to Lady Beatrice's late husband, but when she died ...
10. Shoscombe Old Place was in the centre of ...

III. Choose the variant that suits best.

1. Sherlock Holmes was expecting
 - a) Sir Robert Norberton
 - b) Sam Brewer
 - c) John Mason

2. Holmes was interested in
 - a) Shoscombe Park
 - b) Shoscombe Old Place
 - c) Newmarket Heath

3. The title and surname of Lady Beatrice's late husband was most likely
 - a) Sir Norberton
 - b) Sir Falder
 - c) Sir Shoscombe

4. After Lady Beatrice's death, the estate would go to
 - a) Lady Beatrice's brother-in-law
 - b) her cousin

c) her widowed sister

5. Sir Robert Norberton was

- a) brave and strong
- b) quiet and kind
- c) well-educated and broad-minded

6. Shoscombe Old Place was famous for its

- a) racehorses and pedigree dogs
- b) Shoscombe Park and the training ground
- c) Shoscombe spaniels and the annual dog shows

7. Lady Beatrice was especially proud of

- a) the house
- b) her dogs
- c) being the sister of one of the best horse riders in the country

8. Sir Robert

- a) lived on the money he earned at horse races
- b) received a steady income from managing the estate
- c) depended on his sister financially

9. Lady Beatrice

- a) shared the estate with her brother
- b) supported her brother financially out of love for him
- c) owned Shoscombe Park, while the stud and the training ground belonged to Sir Robert

10. John Mason was most likely

- a) sent to Holmes by Sir Robert
- b) paying a secret visit to Holmes
- c) visiting Holmes instead of writing a letter to him

Discussion

IV. Prove the following.

1. One of the characteristics of Holmes' manner of investigation was gathering as much information as possible concerning the case at hand.
2. Doctor Watson helped Holmes in his investigative work.
3. Sherlock Holmes paid much attention to detail.

Grammar and Vocabulary

V. Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions.

1. Doctor Watson looked surprised ... Holmes' knowledge.
2. The place did not belong ... Lady Beatrice.
3. The client was late, and Holmes looked ... his watch impatiently.

4. The Shoscombe spaniels took part ... traditional dog shows.
5. Sir Robert made home ... his widowed sister.
6. He knew that he would never be the owner... the estate.
7. Holmes asked Doctor Watson to give him some idea ... Shoscombe Old Place.
8. The letter was written ... John Mason, Sir Robert's head trainer.

VI. Turn the following statements and questions into indirect speech. Remember the participants of the conversation.

1. 'Sir Robert has never been married.'
2. 'His sister draws rents every year.'
3. 'But why do you ask me all these questions?'
4. 'Does the name tell you anything?'
5. 'Do you know anything about horse-racing?'
6. 'Everybody knows that he horsewhipped Sam Brewer once.'
7. 'Can you give me some idea of Shoscombe Old Place?'
8. 'And who is Sam Brewer?'
9. 'What is wrong at Shoscombe?'

VII. Choose the Active or the Passive form of the verb.

1. Sir Robert Norberton (*to know*) as a dangerous man.
2. It (*to know*) that Sam Brewer, the money-lender, (*to horsewhip*) by him once.
3. Promising racehorses (*to train*) at Shoscombe training quarters.
4. An exclusive dog breed (*to raise*) at Shoscombe, too.
5. Brother and sister (*to know*) to get on well.

VIII. Give the English for the following Russian words and word-combinations and use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

наездник
 главный тренер
 отхлестать кнутом
 конные скачки
 выставка собак
 это и хорошо

IX. Give the Russian for the following English words and word-combinations. Use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

a well-known Curzon Street money-lender
 to draw the rents every year
 to have no claim on smth.
 his widowed sister
 her late husband
 the famous Shoscombe stud and training quarters

X. Translate the following sentences from English into Russian.

1. 'Don't look surprised at my knowledge, Watson.'
2. 'How is that?'
3. He looked impatiently at his watch.
4. That is just what I want to know.
5. They are the special pride of Lady Beatrice.
6. And Sir Robert, I suppose, spends the rents?

XI. Paraphrase the following sentences using the expressions from the text.

1. He is one of *the best and most courageous riders* in England.
2. I had a new client calling, but he *is late* in coming.
3. They are about *the best breed* in England.
4. 'Sir Robert Norberton's wife, I *suppose*.'
5. *It's all for the better*, I think, considering his prospects.
6. Norberton *has no hope of getting it* at all.
7. When she dies, it *will be owned by* her husband's brother.
8. He is *the cause of a lot of inconvenience* for her.
9. But *what is the matter* at Shoscombe?

Episode II. Head Trainer's Story

The door opened and a tall, clean-shaven man with a firm, serious expression came in. Such an austere expression is often seen on those who have to control horses or boys. He bowed with cold self-possession and seated himself upon the chair to which Holmes had waved him.

'You had my note, Mr Holmes?'

'Yes, but it explained nothing.'

'It was too delicate a thing for me to put the details on paper. And too complicated. It was only face to face I could do it.'

'Well, we are at your disposal.'

'First of all, Mr Holmes, I think that my employer, Sir Robert, has gone mad.'

Holmes raised his eyebrows. 'I am a detective, not a doctor,' said he. 'But why do you say so?'

'Well, sir, when a man does one queer thing, or two queer things, there may be a meaning to it. But when everything he does is queer, then you begin to wonder. I believe Shoscombe Prince and the Derby have turned his brain.'

'That is a colt you are running?'

'The best in England, Mr Holmes. I should know, if anyone does. Now, I'll be plain with you, for I know you are gentlemen of honour and that it won't go beyond the room. Sir Robert has got to win this Derby. He's up to the neck in debt, and it's his last chance. Everything he could raise or borrow is on the horse - and at fine odds, too! You can get forties now, but it was nearer the hundred when he began to back him.'

'But how is that, if the horse is so good?'

'The public don't know how good he is. Sir Robert has been too clever for the touts. He has the Prince's half-brother out for spins. You can't tell 'em apart. But there are two lengths in a furlong between them when it comes to a gallop. He thinks of nothing but the horse and the race. His whole life is on it. He's holding off the Jews till then. If the Prince fails him, he is done.'

'It seems a rather desperate gamble, but where does the madness come in?'

'Well, first of all, you have only to look at him. I don't believe he sleeps at night. His eyes are wild. It has all been too much for his nerves. Then there is his conduct to Lady Beatrice!'

'Ah! what is that?'

'They have always been the best of friends. They had the same tastes, the two of them, and she loved the horses as much as he did. Every day at the same hour she would drive down to see them - and, above all, she loved the Prince. He would prick up his ears when he heard the wheels on the gravel, and he would trot out each morning to the carriage to get his lump of sugar. But that's all over now.'

'Why?'

'Well, she seems to have lost all interest in the horses. For a week now she has driven past the stables with never so much as 'good morning!'

'You think there has been a quarrel?'

'And a bitter, savage, spiteful quarrel at that. Why else would he give away her pet spaniel that she loved as if he were her child? He gave it a few days ago to old Barnes, who keeps the 'Green Dragon', three miles off, at Crandall.'

'That certainly did seem strange.'

'Of course, with her weak heart and dropsy one couldn't expect that she could get about with him, but he spent two hours every evening in her room. He might well do what he could, for she has been a rare good friend to him. But that's all over, too. He never goes near her. And she takes it to heart. She is brooding and sulking and drinking, Mr Holmes - drinking like a fish.'

'Did she drink before this estrangement?'

'Well, she took her glass, but now it is often a whole bottle of an evening. So Stephens, the butler, told me. It's all changed, Mr Holmes, and there is something damned rotten about it. But then, again, what is master doing down at the old church crypt at night? And who is the man that meets him there?'

Holmes rubbed his hands.

'Go on, Mr Mason. You get more and more interesting.'

Comprehension Check

I. Answer the following questions.

1. What did John Mason look like?
2. What did he say about Sir Robert's state of mind?
3. What was Sir Robert crazy about?
4. Why was he so eager to win the Derby?
5. Did Sir Robert manage his horse racing business effectively?
6. What would happen to him if he lost the Derby?
7. What were the two symptoms of Sir Robert's madness as stated by Mason?

8. Why did Mason decide that Sir Robert had quarrelled with his sister?
9. How did Sir Robert's behaviour affect Lady Beatrice?
10. What else, besides the quarrel, seem suspicious to Mason?

II. Choose the variant that suits best.

1. John Mason did not write much in his letter because he
 - a) was afraid that the letter would be intercepted
 - b) found it difficult to express everything in a letter
 - c) hated writing letters

2. By his remark "*He's holding off the Jews till then*", Mason meant that
 - a) Sir Robert managed to avoid his creditors
 - b) his master did not communicate with people who were Jews
 - c) Sir Robert wanted to deceive the relatives of his sister's late husband who happened to be Jews

3. Sir Robert
 - a) had sold his sister's dog
 - b) had given it to a man who was breeding spaniels
 - c) had given the dog to the innkeeper of the nearest inn

4. Lady Beatrice suffered from
 - a) tuberculosis
 - b) asthma
 - c) heart trouble and chronic swelling

5. Lady Beatrice used to give the Prince
 - a) a cake
 - b) a sweet
 - c) a lump of sugar

III. Who said it and when?

1. 'If the Prince fails him, he is done.'
2. 'But why do you say so?'
3. 'Ah! what is that?'
4. 'Well, we are at your disposal.'
5. 'That certainly did seem strange.'

Discussion

IV. Why did Holmes rub his hands when he heard that Sir Robert had been going to the old church crypt at night?

V. Why did Sir Robert think it necessary to outwit the touts?

VI. Which of the symptoms of Sir Robert's madness might seem the most suspicious to Holmes?

Grammar and Vocabulary

VII. Open the brackets using the correct tense form of the verb.

1. Mason remarked that Lady Beatrice (*to drink*) since she quarrelled with her brother.
2. He said that Lady Beatrice (*not to stop*) at the stables for a week.
3. The head trainer told Holmes that Sir Robert (*to give*) the dog to the innkeeper a few days before.
4. He wondered what his master (*to do*) at the old church crypt in the night-time.
5. Sir Robert (*to use to spend*) two hours every evening in his sister's room.
6. Lady Beatrice (*to treat*) the Prince to sugar every time she passed by the stables.
7. Mason said that if the Prince (*to fail*) him, he (*to be done*).
8. The head trainer (*to think*) that the Prince and the Derby (*to turn*) his master's brain.
9. He said that Sir Robert (*to be*) up to his neck in debt, and that the Derby (*to be*) his last chance.
10. He (*not to visit*) Lady Beatrice, and she took it to heart.

VIII. Turn the following statements and questions into indirect speech. Remember the participants of the conversation.

1. 'You had my note, Mr Holmes?'
2. 'First of all, Mr Holmes, I think that my employer, Sir Robert, has gone mad.'
3. 'Well, sir, when a man does one queer thing, or two queer things, there may be a meaning to it. But when everything he does is queer, then you begin to wonder.'
4. 'I know you are gentlemen of honour and it won't go beyond the room.'
5. 'The public don't know how good he is.'
6. 'His whole life is on it.'
7. 'You think there has been a quarrel?'
8. 'Did she drink before this estrangement?'
9. 'But then, again, what is master doing down at the old church crypt at night?'
10. 'Go on, Mr Mason. You get more and more interesting.'

IX. Choose the Active or the Passive form of the verb.

1. The letter (*to write*) by Mr Mason, Sir Robert's head trainer.
2. Shoscombe Prince, the pride of Sir Robert, (*to run*) by the head trainer.
3. The horserace business (*to manage*) effectively.
4. The sensitive information (*to secure*) against the touts.
5. A quarrel between Sir Robert and his sister (*not to leave unnoticed*) by the head trainer and the butler.
6. Lady Beatrice's favourite dog (*to give away*) by Sir Robert not long before.
7. Mason (*to be alarmed*) by Sir Robert's secret visits to the church crypt at night.
8. In Mason's opinion, Lady Beatrice (*to hurt*) by her brother's conduct.
9. Every day, the Prince (*to give*) a lump of sugar.

X. Paraphrase the italicized words using the expressions from the text.

1. Now, *I'll be sincere with you*, for I know you are gentlemen of honour and *will keep it a secret*.
2. I believe Shoscombe Prince and the Derby *have made him crazy*.
3. Everything he could raise or borrow is on the horse - *and all to the good*, too!
4. ... but it was nearer the hundred when he began *to bet on him*.'
5. He's *deeply in debt*, and it's his last chance.
6. It has all been *a great strain on him*.
7. He *is obsessed with* the horse and the race.
8. And she *suffers greatly from it*.
9. ... for she has been *an exceptionally good friend* to him.
10. ... and there is *something definitely wrong about it*.
11. She is drinking, Mr Holmes, *drinking heavily*.
12. Of course, with her weak heart and dropsy one couldn't expect that she could *keep him good company*.
13. You can't *tell one from the other*.
14. But that's *all in the past*, too.
15. For a week now she has driven past the stables *paying no attention to them*.
16. And, *most of all*, she loved the Prince.

XI. Give the English for the following Russian words and word-combinations. Use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

тренировки

в вашем распоряжении

наводчик, человек, добывающий и продающий сведения о лошадях перед скачками

лично, с глазу на глаз

крипта, усыпальница

XII. Find synonymous English words and word-combinations in the text.

to feel hurt, to draw into oneself

to be buried in debt

final opportunity

alienation

self-control

to share tastes

behaviour

most of all

to be ruined

XIII. Translate the following sentences from English into Russian.

1. 'But how is that, if the horse is so good?'
2. 'But where does the madness come in?'

3. 'If the Prince fails him, he is done.'
4. 'And, above all, she loved the Prince.'
5. 'She is drinking like a fish.'
6. 'I should know, if anyone does.'
7. 'That is a colt you are running?'
8. 'You have only to look at him.'
9. Holmes rubbed his hands.
10. 'He has the Prince's half-brother out for spins.'

Episode III. The Church Crypt

'It was the butler who saw him go,' the horse trainer went on. 'Twelve o'clock at night and raining hard. So next night I was up at the house and, sure enough, master was off again. Stephens and I went after him, but it was jumpy work, for it would have been a bad job if he had seen us. He's a terrible man with his fists if he gets started, and no respecter of persons. So we were shy of getting too near, but we marked him down all right. It was the haunted crypt that he was making for, and there was a man waiting for him there.'

'What is this haunted crypt?'

'Well, sir, there is an old ruined chapel in the park. It is so old that nobody could fix its date. And under it there's a crypt, which has a bad name among us. It's a dark, damp, lonely place by day, but there are few in that county that would have the nerve to go near it at night. But master's not afraid. He never feared anything in his life. But what is he doing there in the night-time?'

'Wait a bit!' said Holmes. 'You say there is another man there. It must be one of your own stable-men, or someone from the house! Surely you have only to spot who it is and question him?'

'It's no one I know.'

'How can you say that?'

'Because I have seen him, Mr Holmes. It was on that second night. Sir Robert turned and passed us - me and Stephens, quaking in the bushes like two bunny-rabbits, for there was a bit of moon that night. But we could hear the other moving about behind. We were not afraid of him. So we stood up when Sir Robert was gone and pretended we were just having a walk like in the moonlight, and so we came right on him as casual and innocent as you please. 'Hullo, mate! Who may you be?' says I. I guess he had not heard us coming, so he looked over his shoulder with a face as if he had seen the Devil coming out of Hell. He let out a yell, and away he went as hard as he could lick it in the darkness. He could run! - I'll give him that. In a minute, he was out of sight and hearing, and who he was, or what he was, we never found.'

'But you saw him clearly in the moonlight?'

'Oh, yes, I would swear to his yellow face - a mean dog. What could he have in common with Sir Robert?'

Holmes sat for some time lost in thought.

'Who keeps Lady Beatrice company?' he asked at last.

'There is her maid, Carrie Evans. She has been with her for five years.'

'And is, no doubt, devoted?'

Mr Mason shuffled uncomfortably.

'She's devoted enough,' he answered at last. 'But I won't say to whom.'

'Ah!' said Holmes.

'I can't tell tales out of school.'

'I quite understand, Mr Mason. Of course, the situation is clear enough. From Dr Watson's description of Sir Robert, I can realize that no woman is safe from him. Don't you think the quarrel between brother and sister may lie there?'

'Well, the scandal has been pretty clear for a long time.'

'But she may not have seen it before. Let us suppose that she has suddenly found it out. She wants to get rid of the woman. Her brother will not permit it. The invalid, with her weak heart and inability to get about, has no means of enforcing her will. The hated maid is still tied to her. The lady refuses to speak, sulks, takes to drink. Sir Robert in his anger takes her pet spaniel away from her. Does not all this hang together?'

'Well, it might do - so far as it goes.'

'Exactly! As far as it goes. How would all that bear upon the visits by night to the old crypt? We can't fit that into our plot.'

'No, sir, and there's something more that I can't fit in. Why should Sir Robert want to dig up a dead body?'

Holmes sat up abruptly.

'We only found it out yesterday - after I had written to you. Yesterday Sir Robert had gone to London, so Stephens and I went down to the crypt. It was all in order, sir, except that in one corner was a bit of a human body.'

'You informed the police, I suppose?'

Our visitor smiled grimly.

'Well, sir, I think it would hardly interest them. It was just the head and a few bones of a mummy. It may have been a thousand years old. But it wasn't there before. That I'll swear, and so will Stephens. It had been stowed away in a corner and covered over with a board, but that corner had always been empty before.'

'What did you do with it?'

'Well, we just left it there.'

'That was wise. You say Sir Robert was away yesterday. Has he returned?'

'We expect him back today.'

'When did Sir Robert give away his sister's dog?'

'It was just a week ago today. The creature was howling outside the old well-house, and Sir Robert was in one of his tantrums that morning. He caught it up and I thought he would have killed it. Then he gave it to Sandy Bain, the jockey, and told him to take the dog to old Barnes at the 'Green Dragon', for he never wished to see it again.'

Comprehension Check

I. Answer the following questions.

1. Did Mason and the butler follow Sir Robert to the crypt?

2. Why were they afraid to get too near him?
3. What sort of place was the old crypt?
4. Did they know the man Sir Robert met there?
5. How did the stranger behave when Mason addressed him?
6. What question about Lady Beatrice did Holmes ask Mason?
7. How did Holmes react to the news that Sir Robert had dug up a dead body in the crypt?
8. How did Mason explain why they had not informed the police?
9. What had they done with the mummy?
10. What was Mason's version of the reason for which Sir Robert had given the dog away?

II. Who do the following remarks belong to?

1. 'And is, no doubt, devoted?'
2. 'Hullo, mate! Who may you be?'
3. 'We can't fit that into our plot.'
4. '...there's something more that I can't fit in.'
5. I think it would hardly interest them.'
6. 'But she may not have seen it before.'
7. 'What did you do with it?'

Discussion

III. What detail of Mason's story put Holmes on the alert and why?

IV. What, in Holmes' opinion, might have caused a quarrel between brother and sister?

V. Why was Holmes interested to know when exactly the dog had been given away?

Grammar and Vocabulary

VI. Insert articles wherever necessary.

1. In ... minute, he was out of ... sight and ... hearing.
2. Holmes sat for some time lost in ... thought.
3. 'Sir Robert caught the dog up when it was howling outside ... old well-house.'
4. 'It had been stowed away in a corner and covered over with ... board.'
5. 'Don't you think the quarrel between ... brother and ... sister may lie there?'
6. 'It was just ... head and a few bones of ... mummy.'
7. 'Why should Sir Robert want to dig up ... dead body?'
8. 'He gave it to Sandy Bain, ... jockey.'
9. 'It was just ... week ago today.'
10. 'I can't tell tales out of ... school.'

VIII. Choose the Active or the Passive form of the verb.

1. That night, Sir Robert (*to follow*) by Mason and Stephens.

2. The crypt (*to know*) to be a bad place.
3. When the stranger (*to greet*), he screamed and ran away as fast as he could.
4. Mason (*to be*) unwilling to let Sir Robert's secrets out.
5. Holmes (*to sit up*) abruptly when he (*to hear*) that Sir Robert (*to dig up*) a dead body.
6. A bit of a human body (*to find*) by Mason and the butler in the crypt.
7. The police (*not to inform*).
8. The bones (*to stow away*) in the corner.
9. The dog (*to catch up*) by Sir Robert and (*to give away*) to the innkeeper.

VII. Turn the following statements and questions into indirect speech. Remember the participants of the conversation.

1. 'What is this haunted crypt?'
2. 'Well, sir, there is an old ruined chapel in the park. And under it there's a crypt, which has a bad name among us.'
3. 'Surely you have only to spot who it is and question him?'
4. 'It's no one I know.'
5. 'He could run! - I'll give him that.'
6. 'But you saw him clearly in the moonlight?'
7. 'Who keeps Lady Beatrice company?'
8. 'She has been with her for five years.'
9. 'Let us suppose that she has suddenly found it out.'
10. 'It may have been a thousand years old. But it wasn't there before.'
11. 'You informed the police, I suppose?'
12. 'Well, we just left it there.'
13. 'When did Sir Robert give away his sister's dog?'
14. 'Sir Robert was away yesterday.'
15. 'Has he returned?'

IX. Give the English for the following Russian words and word-combinations. Use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

направляться куда-л.
 разрушенная часовня
 пользоваться дурной славой
 обижаться, дуться
 быть
 притвориться
 задуматься
 быть не в духе

X. Translate the following words and word-combinations from English into Russian and use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

out of sight and hearing

to take to drink
it hangs together
to have in common
to enforce one's will
to get rid of
to permit
to spot smb.

XI. Paraphrase the italicized words using the expressions from the text.

1. It doesn't *tally with our story*.
2. Does not all this *make sense*?
3. I mustn't *let the secrets out*.
4. How *is it connected with* the visits by night to the old crypt?
5. He *ran for all he was worth*!
6. The invalid has no means of *having her own way*.
7. Nobody could *say how old it was*.
8. He's *quick to use force if something goes against his grain*.
9. It had been *put aside* in a corner.
10. He was *heading for* the haunted crypt.

XII. Paraphrase the sentences using the synonymous expressions known to you.

1. '... sure enough, master was *off* again.'
2. 'Stephens and I went after him, but it was *jumpy* work ...'
3. '... but we *marked him down* all right.'
4. '... but there are few in that county that would *have the nerve to* go near it at night.'
5. 'Sir Robert was in one of his *tantrums* that morning.'
6. 'That I'll *swear*, and so will Stephens.'

Episode IV. Bones Burnt

Holmes lit his pipe and sat for some time in silent thought.

'It's not clear to me yet what you want me to do in this matter, Mr Mason,' he said at last. 'Can't you make it more definite?'

'Perhaps this will make it more definite, Mr Holmes,' said our visitor.

He took a paper from his pocket and, unwrapping it carefully, showed us a burned piece of bone.

Holmes examined it with interest.

'Where did you get it?'

'There is a central heating furnace in the cellar under Lady Beatrice's room. It's been off for some time, but Sir Robert complained of cold and had it on again. Harvey runs it - he's one of my lads. This very morning he came to me with this which he found raking out the cinders. He didn't like the look of it.'

'Nor do I,' said Holmes. 'What do you make of it, Watson?'

'It is burned to a black cinder, but there's no doubt that it is part of a human leg bone.'

'Exactly!' Holmes had become very serious. 'When does this lad tend to the furnace?'

'He makes it up every evening and then leaves it!'

'Then anyone could visit it during the night?'

'Yes, sir.'

'Can you enter it from outside?'

'There is one door from outside. There is another which leads up by a stair to the passage in which Lady Beatrice's room is situated.'

'You say, Mr. Mason, that Sir Robert was not at home last night?'

'No, sir.'

'Then whoever was burning bones, it was not he.'

'That's true, sir.'

'What is the name of that inn you spoke of?'

'The 'Green Dragon.'

'Is there good fishing in that part of the country?'

The honest trainer showed very clearly upon his face that he was sure that Sherlock Holmes had gone mad, too.

'Well, sir,' he said, 'I've heard there are trout in the mill-stream and pike in the Hall lake. It's in Shoscombe Park.'

'Very good! Watson and I are famous fishermen - are we not, Watson? We shall reach the inn tonight. Of course I need not say that we don't want to see you, Mr Mason. But a note will reach us, and I'm sure I can find you if I want you.'

On a bright May evening, Holmes and I were discussing our plans for fishing with Mr Barnes, the innkeeper.

'What about the Hall lake?' asked Holmes. 'Are there many fish in it?'

'Don't fish there, sir,' answered the innkeeper. 'You may find yourself in the lake before you have finished.'

'How is that?'

'It's Sir Robert, sir, he doesn't want any strangers to come near his park and the training quarters. Sir Robert is the sort that strikes first and speaks afterwards. Keep clear of the park.'

'Of course, Mr Barnes,' said Holmes, 'we certainly shall. By the way, you have a beautiful spaniel here. We saw it in the hall.'

'You are quite right, sir. That was the real Shoscombe breed. There aren't any better in England.'

'I am a dog-fancier myself,' said Holmes. 'Now, if it is a fair question, what would a prize dog like that cost?'

'More than I could pay, sir. It was Sir Robert himself who gave me this one. That's why I have to keep it on a lead. It would be off to the Hall in a jiffy if I let it go.'

'We are getting some information, Watson,' said Holmes when the innkeeper had left us. 'By the way, Sir Robert is still in London, I hear. Let's go to Shoscombe and try to get some more information there.'

Comprehension Check

I. Answer the following questions.

1. What object did Mason show to Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson?
2. Where was it found?
3. How did Doctor Watson identify it?
4. Who had access to the furnace?
5. How many doors were there to the cellar?
6. Why couldn't it be Sir Robert who had been burning bones in the furnace?
7. Did the question about fishing facilities near the inn seem out of place to Mason? What thought came to Mason's mind?
8. What did Holmes and Watson talk about with the innkeeper?
9. Why didn't the innkeeper recommend them to fish in the Hall lake?
10. Did Holmes believe they were making progress?

II. Choose the variant that suits best.

1. Holmes told Mason that they were not to meet at Shoscombe because he
 - a) did not trust Mason
 - b) was afraid to attract Sir Robert's attention
 - c) did not need Mason's help
2. The bones must have been burnt by
 - a) the young man who was running the furnace
 - b) someone who might be Sir Robert's accomplice
 - c) the butler
3. When Holmes said that they (*he and his companion*) were famous fishermen, he
 - a) meant that they took the occupation seriously
 - b) was joking
 - c) stated that they were well-known as fishermen
4. In the mill-stream, they could catch
 - a) pike
 - b) catfish
 - c) trout
5. Talking to the innkeeper about the dog, Holmes was actually interested in
 - a) how much it cost
 - b) the peculiarities of the breed
 - c) the story with Lady Beatrice's spaniel

Discussion

III. Why did Holmes ask Mason about fishing?

IV. How did the innkeeper characterize Sir Robert?

V. What important information did Holmes get while talking to the inn-keeper?

VI. Was it likely that Holmes should suspect Sir Robert of a crime?

Grammar and Vocabulary

VII. Turn the following statements and questions into indirect speech. Use the names of the participants of the conversation.

1. 'It's not clear to me yet what you want me to do in this matter.'
2. 'Don't fish there, sir.'
3. 'Harvey found it in the furnace raking out the cinders.'
4. 'When does this lad tend to the furnace?'
5. 'Can you enter it from outside?'
6. 'Then anyone could visit it during the night?'
7. 'Is there good fishing in that part of the country?'
8. 'I've heard there are trout in the mill-stream and pike in the Hall lake.'
9. 'What about the Hall lake? Are there many fish in it?'
10. 'Keep clear of the park.'
11. 'You may find yourself in the lake before you have finished.'
12. 'By the way, you have a beautiful spaniel here. We saw it in the hall.'
13. 'What would a prize dog like that cost?'
14. 'We are getting some information.'
15. 'Let's go to Shoscombe and try to get some more information there.'

VIII. Choose the Active or the Passive form of the verb.

1. A burned piece of bone (*to discover*) in the central heating furnace under Lady Beatrice's room.
2. The object (*to identify*) by Doctor Watson as part of a human leg bone.
3. The furnace (*to heat*) in the day-time.
4. The cellar (*to be unattended*) in the night-time.
5. The bones might (*to burn*) by Sir Robert's accomplice.
6. Holmes and Watson (*not to recommend*) to fish in the Hall lake.
7. They might (*to beat*) by Sir Robert.
8. The spaniel (*to keep*) on a lead.
9. The dog (*to give*) to the innkeeper free.
10. Holmes (*to be*) satisfied with the results of the conversation.

IX. Give the English for the following Russian words and word-combinations. Use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

печь

подвал

развернуть (*свёрток*)

выгребать золу

проникнуть куда-л. снаружи

ПОЖАЛОВАТЬСЯ НА ХОЛОД
ХОЗЯИН ГОСТИНИЦЫ
МЕЖДУ ПРОЧИМ

X. Give the Russian for the following English words and word-combinations from the text. Use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

to keep a dog on a lead
to complain of cold
to fish
breed
to be a dog-fancier
in a jiffy
in silent thought
to run the furnace

XI. Paraphrase the italicized words using the expressions from the text.

1. Harvey *attends to the furnace*.
2. What *do you think about it*, Watson?'
3. The honest trainer thought that Sherlock Holmes *had lost his mind*, too.
4. Can't you make it *clearer*?'
5. Sir Robert *hates any strangers coming* near his park and the training quarters.
6. On a bright May evening, we were *talking about our plans for fishing* with Mr Barnes, the innkeeper.
7. We shall *go to* the inn tonight.
8. It would *run back* to the Hall *immediately* if I let it go.'
9. *Don't go* to the park.

Episode V. The Black Spaniel

'Have you any theory, Holmes?' I asked him.

'Only this, Watson, that something happened a week or so ago which has changed the life at Shoscombe Old Place. What is that something? Let's consider the facts. The brother no longer visits his dear invalid sister. He gives away her favourite dog. Her dog, Watson! The lady keeps her room; she has lost interest in the horses and refuses to stop at the stables to greet her favourite horse, and apparently takes to drink.'

'How will you explain the crypt?'

'Now let's consider the facts about Sir Robert himself,' went on Holmes without answering my question. 'He is mad keen upon winning the Derby. He is in the hands of the money-lenders. At any moment his horses and his racing stables may be seized by his creditors. He is a very brave man. He lives on his sister's money. '

'And how will you explain the crypt?'

'Ah, yes, the crypt! Let us suppose, Watson, - it's only a hypothesis, - that Sir Robert has killed his sister.'

'My dear Holmes, it is out of the question,' I cried.

'Very possibly, Watson. Sir Robert is a man of an honourable stock. But you do occasionally find a carrion crow among the eagles. Let us for a moment argue upon this supposition. He couldn't leave the country until he won the race. So, he would need time to realize his plan. He would have to dispose of the body of his victim, and he would also have to find a substitute who would impersonate her. With the maid as his confidante that would not be impossible. The woman's body might be conveyed to the crypt, which is a place so seldom visited, and it might be secretly destroyed at night in the furnace, leaving behind it such evidence as we have already seen. What do you say to that, Watson?'

'Well, it is all possible if you grant the original monstrous supposition.'

'I think that there is a small experiment which we may try to-morrow, Watson, in order to throw some light on the matter.'

About eleven o'clock in the morning we started for a walk and Holmes had obtained permission to take the black spaniel with us. When we came to the gates of Shoscombe Park, he said:

'Let's wait here. Mr Barnes tells me that Lady Beatrice takes a drive at this time of day. When her carriage comes to the gates, it must slow down while the gates are being opened. When it comes through, and before it gathers speed, I want you, Watson, to stop the coachman with some question. Never mind me. I shall stand behind this bush and see what I can see.'

We did not wait long. In a quarter of an hour, we saw a big open carriage coming through the park to the gates. Holmes crouched behind his bush with the dog. I stood unconcernedly swinging a cane in the roadway. A keeper ran out and the gates swung open.

The carriage had slowed to a walk and I was able to get a good look at the occupants. A young woman with red cheeks and light hair sat on the right. At her left was an old woman. Her face and shoulders were wrapped in a shawl. When the horses reached the high road, I held up my hand with an authoritative gesture, and as the coachman pulled up, I inquired if Sir Robert was at Shoscombe Old Place.

At the same moment, Holmes left his shelter and let the spaniel off the leash. With a joyous cry, the dog ran forward to the carriage and jumped up on the step. Then in a moment its joy changed to rage, and it bit at the black skirt of the invalid.

'Drive on! Drive on!' shrieked a harsh voice. The coachman lashed the horses, and we were left standing in the roadway.

'Well, Watson, that's done it,' said Holmes, as he fastened the lead to the neck of the excited spaniel. 'He thought it was his mistress and he found it was a stranger. Dogs don't make mistakes.'

'But it was the voice of a man,' I cried.

'Exactly!' We have added one card to our hand, Watson, but it needs careful playing, all the same.'

Holmes seemed to have no further plans for the day, so we actually used our fishing tackle in the mill-stream and had a dish of trout for our supper.

Comprehension Check

I. Answer the following questions.

1. What was Holmes' version of the case so far?
2. Did Watson believe Sir Robert might have killed his sister?
3. What did Holmes intend to do?
4. Who were going to be the participants of the experiment?
5. What was Watson to do?
6. Who did he see in the carriage?
7. What did Holmes do when the carriage stopped?
8. What was the dog's immediate reaction as soon as it was unleashed?
9. What did it do in a moment?
10. What detail was not left unnoticed by both Holmes and Watson?

II. Say if it is true or false.

1. Holmes did not exclude the possibility of Sir Robert's being guilty of the crime.
2. He suspected Sir Robert of hiring a person to substitute for his sister.
3. Doctor Watson agreed with his friend at once.
4. Holmes suspected the butler of being Sir Robert's accomplice.
5. Lady Beatrice's maid was out of suspicion.
6. Holmes thought that Sir Robert was trying to burn his sister's remains.
7. It was Holmes who addressed the coachman with a question.
8. The dog appeared near the gate by chance.
9. Watson was surprised at hearing a man's voice, but Holmes wasn't.
10. But for the dog, the experiment would have been impossible.
11. Holmes was quite satisfied with the results of the experiment.
12. That day Holmes and Watson did some fishing in the mill-stream.

III. Complete the following sentences.

1. Her face and shoulders were wrapped ...
2. We were left standing in ...
3. A keeper ran out and the gates ...
4. At the same moment, Holmes left ...
5. 'Sir Robert is a man of ...
6. Then in a moment its joy changed ...
7. Holmes crouched ...
8. 'He couldn't leave the country until ...'

Discussion

IV. Comment on the following sentences.

1. 'And how will you explain the crypt?'
2. 'But you do occasionally find a carrion crow among the eagles.'
3. '... it is out of the question.'

4. 'We have added one card to our hand, Watson, but it needs careful playing, all the same.'

V. Did it matter much to Holmes whether the person who played the role of Lady Beatrice was a man or a woman? What was the one thing that mattered to him?

Grammar and Vocabulary

VI. Fill in the gaps with the appropriate prepositions.

1. 'She has lost interest ... the horses.'
2. 'He is mad keen ... winning the Derby.'
3. 'He would have to dispose ... the body ... his victim.'
4. I was able to get a good look ... the occupants.
5. We had a dish of trout ... our supper.
6. It was a great strain ... her nerves, and she took ... drinking.
7. I held ... my hand, and the carriage stopped.
8. 'He is ... the hands ... the money-lenders.'
9. 'He lives ... his sister's money.'
10. 'Let us ... a moment argue ... this supposition.'
11. 'Lady Beatrice takes a drive ... this time of day.'

VII. Turn the following statements and questions into indirect speech. Use the names of the participants of the conversation.

1. 'Have you any theory, Holmes?'
2. 'Now let's consider the facts about Sir Robert himself.'
3. 'Let's wait here.'
4. 'Never mind me. I shall stand behind this bush and see what I can see.'
5. 'Drive on! Drive on!'
6. 'Well, Watson, that's done it. 'Dogs don't make mistakes.'

VIII. Choose the Active or the Passive form of the verb.

1. Sir Robert (*to be*) deeply in debt, and at any moment his horses and his racing stables might (*to take*) away from him.
2. The crypt (*to visit seldom*), so his sister's body (*to convey*) there.
3. Probably, it (*to destroy*) at night in the furnace.
4. An experiment (*to perform*) the next morning.
5. Permission (*to obtain*) by Holmes to use the dog as a participant of the experiment.
6. When the carriage (*to come*) through the gate, it (*to stop*) by Doctor Watson.
7. Holmes and the dog (*to hide*) in the bush, from which the whole scene could (*to see*).
8. The old woman's face could not (*to see*) well, as it (*to wrap*) in a shawl.
9. At that moment the spaniel (*to let*) off the leash.
10. The old woman (*not to recognise*) by the dog, and so Holmes' suspicions (*to confirm*).

IX. Fill in the gaps with the words from the text.

1. With a ... cry, the dog ran forward to the carriage.
2. He fastened the lead to the neck of the ... spaniel.
3. At her left was an ... woman.
4. A ... woman with ... cheeks and ... hair sat on the right.
5. We saw a big ... carriage coming through the park to the gates.
6. 'It might be ... destroyed at night in the furnace.'
7. 'The lady refuses to stop at the stables to greet her ... dog.'
8. 'It is all possible if you grant the original ... supposition.'
9. Holmes seemed to have no ... plans for the day.

X. Give the English for the following Russian words, word-combinations and phrases. Use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

рассматривать факты
потерять интерес к чему-л.
страстно желать чего-л.
оставить улики
сыграть роль кого-л.
сообщница
провести эксперимент
'Получилось', (*сработало*)

XI. Give the Russian for the following English words and word-combinations. Use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

to keep one's room
to find a substitute
to dispose of the body of the victim
to throw light on smth.
to obtain permission to do smth.
to leave one's shelter
to let the dog off the leash
to have no further plans for the day

XII. Paraphrase the italicized words using the expressions from the text.

1. The lady *doesn't leave* her room; she *is not interested in* the horses any more
2. And, apparently, she *starts drinking*.
3. Let us for a moment *consider* this supposition.
4. He would have *to get rid of* the body of his victim.
5. He would also have *to hire a person who would play the role of his sister*.
6. I inquired if Sir Robert was *in*.
7. I think we'll *perform an experiment* tomorrow, Watson, in order *to clear up the peculiarities of the matter*.
8. Let's *discuss* the facts.

9. He *is crazy about* winning the Derby.
10. Sir Robert is a man *of high moral principles*.

Episode VI. In the Crypt

After supper, we went out for a walk once more. We went along the same road as in the morning and we came to the park gates again. A tall, dark figure was awaiting us there. It was our London visitor, Mr Mason, the trainer.

'Good evening, gentlemen,' he said. 'I got your note, Mr. Holmes. Sir Robert has not returned yet, but I hear that he is expected tonight. The moment he arrives, he will want to see me to get the latest news of Shoscombe Prince.'

'How far is this crypt from the house?' asked Holmes.

'A good quarter of a mile.'

'You can show us the crypt, Mr Mason, and then leave us,' said Holmes.

At first, we could see nothing in the darkness when we came to the melancholy place. Then Holmes lit his lantern which threw its yellow light upon stone walls and stone coffins.

'You spoke of some bones, Mr Mason,' said Holmes. 'Could you show them before you go?'

'They are here in this corner.' The trainer walked across the crypt and then stood in silent surprise.

'They are gone,' he said.

'So I expected,' said Holmes. 'They were taken away and burnt in the furnace.'

'But who could want to burn the bones of a man who has been dead a thousand years?' asked John Mason.

'That's what we are here to find out,' said Holmes.

After John Mason had left us, Holmes set to work. He made a very careful examination of the coffins. An hour or more had passed before Holmes came to a coffin standing beside the entrance to the vault. With his lens, he carefully examined the heavy lid of the coffin. He seemed to be satisfied with his results. Suddenly he stopped working and listened.

Someone was walking in the chapel above. Then a light came down the stairs, and a few seconds later a man came in.

A large stable-lantern, which he held in front of him, shone upwards on his strong face and angry eyes. He stared at my companion and myself.

'Who the devil are you?' he thundered. 'And what are you doing here?' Then, as Holmes did not answer, he took a few steps forward and raised a heavy stick which he carried.

'Do you hear me?' he cried. 'Who are you? What are you doing here?'

Holmes was not frightened. He stepped forward to meet him.

'I also have a question to ask you, Sir Robert,' he said very seriously. 'Who is this? And why is it here?'

He turned and opened the coffin lid behind him. In the light of the lantern, I saw a body wrapped in a sheet from head to foot. I also saw a yellow face, all nose and chin.

Sir Robert gave a cry and stepped back.

'How did you come to know of this?' he cried. And then his courage returned to him and he said, 'What business is it of yours?'

'My name is Sherlock Holmes,' said my companion. 'Possibly you have heard of me. In any case, my business is to uphold the law. It seems to me you have much to answer for.'

Sir Robert stared angrily for a moment, but Holmes' quiet voice and calm manner had their effect.

'Believe me, Mr Holmes,' he said, 'I could do nothing else, but I have not done anything criminal.'

'I should be happy to think so,' said Holmes, 'but I fear your explanations must be for the police.'

'Well, if it must be, it must. Come to the house and you can judge for yourself how the matter stands.'

Comprehension Check

I. Answer the following questions.

1. Who did Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson meet after supper?
2. Where did Mason take them to?
3. Had Sir Robert arrived from London?
4. What had happened to the bones?
5. Was Holmes surprised at the disappearance or did he have an explanation?
6. What did Holmes do after Mason had left them?
7. Who was his work interrupted by?
8. What was the man ready to do in his anger?
9. How did Sir Robert's manner change after he had learned that he was speaking to the detective Sherlock Holmes?
10. What did Sir Robert suggest doing?

II. Complete the following sentences.

1. After John Mason had left us, ...
2. 'In any case, my business is ...'
3. 'I could do nothing else, but ...'
4. Then a light came down the stairs, and a few seconds later ...
5. 'Come to the house and ...'
6. An hour or more had passed before Holmes ...
7. A tall, dark figure ...
8. In the light of the lantern I saw a body wrapped in ...
9. 'But who could want to burn the bones ...'

III. Who and when made the following remarks?

1. 'They are gone.'
2. 'They were taken away and burnt in the furnace.'
3. 'Do you hear me?'
4. 'How did you come to know of this?'

5. 'Who is this? And why is it here?'
6. 'What business is it of yours?'
7. 'I should be happy to think so.'
8. 'That's what we are here to find out.'

Discussion

IV. Why did Sir Robert get frightened when Holmes opened the coffin lid behind him?

V. Was Sir Robert going to tell the truth or make up a story?

Grammar and vocabulary

VI. Turn the following statements and questions into indirect speech. Use the names of the participants of the conversation.

1. 'I also have a question to ask you.'
2. 'The moment he arrives, he will want to see me to get the latest news of Shoscombe Prince.'
3. 'They are here in this corner.'
4. 'What are you doing here?'
5. 'Good evening, gentlemen,' he said. 'I got your note, Mr Holmes.'
6. 'Sir Robert has not returned yet.'
7. 'I have not done anything criminal.'
8. 'Possibly you have heard of me.'
9. 'Could you show them before you go?'

VII. Choose the Active or the Passive form of the verb.

1. The note (*to receive*) by Mason, and so they (*to meet*) at the park gate.
2. Sir Robert (*not to arrive*) yet, but he (*to expect*) that night.
3. When the lantern (*to light*), they (*to see*) the stone walls and the stone coffins of the crypt.
4. It was clear that the bones (*to take away*) and (*to burn*) in the furnace.
5. The coffins (*to examine*) by Holmes very carefully.
6. Holmes' attention (*to attract*) by the coffin standing beside the entrance to the vault.
7. Suddenly, his work (*to interrupt*).
8. Sir Robert (*to understand*) that the truth (*to come out*).
9. He said that no crime (*to commit*) by him.
10. Holmes and Watson (*to invite*) to the house, where they could (*to consider*) the matter in detail.

VIII. Fill in the gaps with the appropriate prepositions.

1. We went ... the same road as in the morning, and we came ... the park gates again.
2. Holmes came to a coffin standing ... the entrance ... the vault.
3. He seemed to be satisfied ... his results.

4. He stared ... my companion and myself.
5. 'You spoke ... some bones, Mr Mason,' said Holmes.
6. The trainer walked ... the crypt and then stood ... silent surprise.
7. Sir Robert gave a cry and stepped ...
8. 'It seems ... me you have much to answer ...'
9. 'You can judge ... yourself how the matter stands.'
10. 'But I fear your explanations must be ... the police.'

IX. Complete the sentences with the words from the text.

1. At first, we could see nothing in the darkness when we came to the ... place.
2. It was our ... visitor, Mr Mason, the trainer.
3. He made a very ... examination of the coffins.
4. A large stable-lantern shone upwards on his ... face and ... eyes.
5. He took a few steps ... and raised a ... stick.
6. But Holmes' ... voice and ... manner had their effect.
7. I also saw a ... face, all nose and chin.
8. With his lens, he ... examined the ... lid of the coffin.
9. Sir Robert stared ... for a moment.
10. Holmes lit his lantern which threw its ... light upon ... walls and ... coffins.

X. Give the Russian for the following English words and word-combinations. Use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

to find out
 to set to work
 to uphold the law
 to examine carefully
 to give a cry
 from head to foot
 to judge for oneself

XI. Give the English for the following Russian expressions.

в свете фонаря
 сделать шаг назад
 поднять палку
 'Какое вам дело?'
 'Надо, так надо'
 знать, как обстоят дела
 пристально смотреть

XII. Paraphrase the following sentences using the expressions from the text.

1. 'They *have disappeared*,' he said.
2. 'That's what we are *to clear up*.'
3. 'Who *the deuce* are you?'

4. Holmes was not *scared*.
5. 'How did you *learn* about it?'
6. 'My business is *to enforce the law*.'
7. 'Come to the house and *see what the situation is like in fact*.'

Episode VII. The Will to Win

A quarter of an hour later, we found ourselves in one of the rooms of the old house. Here Sir Robert left us for a few moments. When he returned, he had two companions with him. One of them was the young woman whom we had seen in the carriage. The other was a small man with a rat-like face. They looked surprised, which showed that Sir Robert had not yet had time to explain to them what had happened.

'There,' said Sir Robert pointing to them with his hand, 'are Mr and Mrs Norlett. Mrs Norlett has been my sister's maid for five years. I have brought them here because I feel that my best course is to explain the true position to you, and they are the only two people upon earth who can substantiate what I say.'

'Is this necessary, Sir Robert?' cried the woman. 'Have you thought what you are doing?'

'As to me, I entirely disclaim all responsibility,' said her husband.

Sir Robert gave him a glance of contempt. 'I will take all responsibility,' said he. 'Now, Mr Holmes, listen to a plain statement of the facts.'

You know already, in all probability, that I am running a dark horse for the Derby, and everything depends upon my success. If I win, all is easy. If I lose ... well, I dare not think of that!

'I understand the position,' said Holmes.

'I depend upon my sister, Lady Beatrice, for everything. But it is well known that her interest in the estate is for her own life only. For myself, I am deeply in the hands of the Jews. I have always known that if my sister were to die, my creditors would be on to my estate like a flock of vultures. Everything would be seized, my stables, my horses - everything. Well, Mr Holmes, my sister did die just a week ago.'

'And you told no one!'

'What could I do? Absolute ruin faced me. If I could stave things off for three weeks, all would be well. Her maid's husband - this man here - is an actor. It came into our heads - it came into my head - that he could for that short period impersonate my sister. It was but a case of appearing daily in the carriage, for no one need enter her room save the maid. It was not difficult to arrange. My sister died of the dropsy which had long afflicted her.'

'That will be for a coroner to decide.'

'Her doctor would certify that for months her symptoms have threatened such an end.'

'Well, what did you do?'

'The body could not remain there. On the first night, Norlett and I carried it to the old well-house, which is now never used. We were followed, however, by her

pet spaniel, which yapped continually at the door, so I felt some safer place was needed. I got rid of the spaniel and we carried the body to the crypt of the church. There was no indignity or irreverence, Mr Holmes. I do not feel that I have wronged the dead.'

'Your conduct seems to me inexcusable, Sir Robert.'

'The Baronet shook his head impatiently'. 'It is easy to preach,' he said. 'Perhaps you would have felt differently if you had been in my position. One cannot see all one's hopes and all one's plans shattered at the last moment and make no effort to save them. It seemed to me that it wouldn't wrong the dead if we put her for the time in one of the coffins of her husband's ancestors. We opened such a coffin, removed the contents, and placed her as you have seen her. As to the old relics which we took out, we could not leave them on the floor of the crypt. Norlett and I removed them, and he descended at night and burned them in the central furnace. There is my story, Mr Holmes, though how you have disclosed it is more than I can say.' Holmes sat for some time lost in thought.

'There is one flaw in your narrative, Sir Robert,' he said at last. 'Your bets on the race, and therefore your hopes for the future, would hold good even if your creditors seized your estate.'

'The horse would be part of the estate. What do they care for my bets? As likely as not, they would not run him at all. My chief creditor is, unhappily, my worst enemy - a rascally fellow, Sam Brewer, whom I was once compelled to horsewhip on Newmarket Heath. Do you suppose that he would try to save me?'

'Well, Sir Robert,' said Holmes, rising, 'this matter must, of course, be referred to the police. It was my duty to bring the facts to light and there I must leave it. As to the morality or decency of your own conduct, it is not for me to express an opinion. It is nearly midnight, Watson, and I think we may make our way back to the 'Green Dragon'.

Luck favoured Sir Robert. The police and the coroner kept his secret until the race was over. Shoscombe Prince won the Derby. His owner got eighty thousand pounds and paid his creditors in full. But still enough was left for Sir Robert to re-establish himself in a fair position in life, to make a good career and live to an honoured, old age.

Comprehension Check

I. Answer the following questions.

1. What did Sir Robert do on reaching the house?
2. Who did he return with?
3. What did Sir Robert say introducing the man and the woman to Holmes?
4. How did he explain why he had kept his sister's death a secret?
5. What plan did he think of in order not to be pursued by the creditors?
6. What had he done with the body?
7. How did Sir Robert explain why he had to get rid of the spaniel?
8. What did he say about the burning of the bones in the furnace?
9. What remark did Holmes make concerning Sir Robert's conduct?
10. What was Holmes' decision?

11. What was the end of the story for Sir Robert?

II. Complete the following sentences.

1. When he returned, he ...
2. They looked surprised, which showed that Sir Robert ...
3. Sir Robert gave him ...
4. 'Her doctor would certify that for months her symptoms ...'
5. 'It was but a case of ...'
6. '...this matter must, of course, be referred ...'
7. 'As to the morality or decency of your own conduct, ...'
8. One of them was the young woman whom ...
9. 'Perhaps you would have felt differently if ...'
10. 'If I could stave things off for three weeks, ...'
11. '... your hopes for the future would hold good even if...'
12. 'My sister died of the dropsy which ...'
13. 'The horse would be part ...'

Discussion

III. Comment on the following remarks.

1. 'It is easy to preach.'
2. 'I am running a dark horse for the Derby.'
3. 'And you told no one!'
4. 'What could I do?'
5. 'As likely as not, they would not run him at all.'
6. 'As to me, I entirely disclaim all responsibility.'

IV. What was Holmes' opinion of Sir Robert's conduct?

V. Do you think Sir Robert was right saying that his worst enemy wouldn't have given him a chance to win the race?

VI. What personal qualities did Sir Robert reveal? Could many people have done the same under the circumstances?

Grammar and vocabulary

VII. Fill in the gaps with the appropriate prepositions.

1. 'It is not ... me to express an opinion.'
2. 'It came ... my head that he could for that short period impersonate my sister.'
3. 'For myself, I am deeply ... the hands ... the Jews.'
4. Sir Robert got eighty thousand pounds and paid his creditors ... full.
5. 'There is one flaw ... your narrative, Sir Robert,' said Holmes at last.
6. 'I got rid ... the spaniel and we carried the body ... the crypt ... the church.'
7. 'It was my duty to bring the facts ... light.'
8. 'As to the old relics which we took ..., we could not leave them ... the floor ... the crypt.'

9. 'He descended ... night and burned them ... the central furnace.'
10. 'What do they care ... my bets?'
11. 'I think we may make our way the 'Green Dragon.'

VIII. Turn the following statements and questions into indirect speech. Use the names of the participants of the conversation.

1. 'I have brought them here because I feel that my best course is to explain the true position to you.'
2. 'Is this necessary, Sir Robert?'
3. 'Have you thought what you are doing?'
4. 'I will take all responsibility.'
5. 'Now, Mr Holmes, listen to a plain statement of the facts.'
6. 'Do you suppose that he would try to save me?'
7. 'Perhaps you would have felt differently if you had been in my position.'
8. 'One cannot see all one's hopes and all one's plans shattered at the last moment and make no effort to save them.'
9. 'There is my story, Mr Holmes, though how you have disclosed it is more than I can say.'
10. 'There is one flaw in your narrative, Sir Robert.' 'Your bets on the race, and therefore your hopes for the future, would hold good even if your creditors seized your estate.'
11. 'What do they care for my bets?'
12. 'It is nearly midnight, Watson, and I think we may make our way back to the 'Green Dragon'.'

IX. Choose the Active or the Passive form of the verb.

1. When Holmes and Watson (*to come*) to the house, they (*to leave*) alone for some time.
2. His two companions (*to bring*) to prove that all he said was true.
3. It was evident that they (*not to inform*) by him about what (*to happen*).
4. Sir Robert said that his words could (*to substantiate*) only by those two people.
5. The coffin of one of the ancestors (*to open*) and the contents (*to remove*).
6. When his sister (*to die*), Sir Robert (*to face*) with absolute ruin.
7. Sir Robert said that his sister (*to afflict*) with dropsy, which finally (*cause*) her death.
8. He didn't think the dead (*to wrong*).
9. After Shoscombe Prince (*to win*) the Derby, all Sir Robert's debts (*to pay off*).
10. Sir Robert's secret (*to keep*) until he (*to win*) the race and to (*pay off*) his debts.

X. Open the brackets using the correct tense form of the verb.

1. 'Your chances to win (*to be*) the same, even if your creditors (*to seize*) the estate'.
2. One of Sir Robert's companions (*to be*) the woman we (*to see*) in the carriage.
3. Sir Robert said that his sister (*to die*) just a week before.
4. Holmes said that it (*to be*) for a coroner to decide.

5. Sir Robert said that he (*to carry*) the body to the old well-house, which (*never to use*).
6. 'Do you suppose that my worst enemy (*to try*) to save me?'
7. His creditors (*not to care*) for his bets.
8. Holmes said that it (*to be*) not for him to judge as to the morality of Sir Robert's conduct.
9. Evidently, Sir Robert (*not to have*) time to explain to them what (*to happen*).
10. It (*to know*) that his sister's interest in the estate (*to be*) for her own life only.

XI. Translate the following words and word-combinations from the text. Recall the situations in which they occur.

to substantiate smth.
 to disclaim all responsibility
 to give smb. a glance of contempt
 in all probability
 to depend on smb.
 to refer the matter to the police

XII. Give the English for the following Russian words and word-combinations. Remember the situations in which they are used in the text.

одна неувязка
 не мне судить
 хранить секрет
 ставки
 порядочность
 дожить до старости

XIII. Paraphrase the sentences using the synonymous expressions from the text.

1. ... a rascally fellow, Sam Brewer, whom I was once *made* to horsewhip on Newmarket Heath.
2. Her doctor would *confirm* that for months her symptoms have threatened such an end.
3. ...this matter must, of course, *be brought before* the police.
4. I do not feel that I have *done harm* to the dead.
5. Your conduct seems to me *unpardonable*, Sir Robert.
6. The other was a small man *with a face like that of a rat*.
7. It was my duty *to reveal* the facts.
8. *Most likely*, they would not run him at all.
9. Holmes sat for some time *deep* in thought.
10. I *gave away* the spaniel and we *removed* the body to the crypt of the church.
11. I *was confronted with* absolute ruin.
12. It's hard to see all your hopes and plans *ruined*.

The Blast of the Book

after G. K. Chesterton

Read the episodes and do the tasks following them.

Episode I. Mysterious Exit

Professor Openshaw always lost his temper, with a loud bang, if anybody called him a Spiritualist; or a believer in Spiritualism. But he also lost his temper if anybody called him a disbeliever in Spiritualism. It was his pride to have given his whole life to investigating Psychic Phenomena; it was also his pride never to have given a hint of whether he thought they were really psychic or merely phenomenal. In his writings, he never stated openly whether he, John Oliver Openshaw, did or did not believe in Spirits, and neither Spiritualist nor Materialist could ever boast of finding out. He truly believed that he was fighting alone against both sides. 'All these people are perpetually asking me what I'm trying to prove,' he said to his friend Father Brown one morning. 'They don't seem to understand that I'm a man of science. A man of science isn't trying to prove anything. He's trying to find out what will prove itself.'

'But he hasn't found out yet,' said Father Brown.

'Well, I have some little notions of my own, that are not quite so negative as most people think,' answered the Professor, after an instant of frowning silence. 'Frankly, I think a lot of psychic appearances could be explained away. It's the disappearances I can't explain, unless they're psychic. These people in the newspaper who vanish and are never found - if you knew the details as I do ... and now only this morning I got confirmation; an extraordinary letter from an old missionary, quite a respectable old boy. He's coming to see me at my office this morning. Perhaps you'd lunch with me or something; and I'd tell the results - in confidence.'

'Thanks; I will - unless,' said Father Brown modestly, 'the fairies have stolen me by then.'

With that, they parted, and Openshaw walked round the corner to a small office he rented in the neighbourhood; chiefly for the publication of a small periodical, of psychical and psychological notes of the driest and most agnostic sort. He had only one clerk, a man called Berridge, who sat at a desk in the outer office, working at some calculations for the Professor's printed report. The Professor paused to ask if Mr Pringle had called. The clerk answered mechanically in the negative and went on mechanically adding up figures; and the Professor turned towards the inner room that was his study. 'Oh, by the way, Berridge,' he added, without turning round, 'if Mr Pringle comes, send him straight in to me. You needn't interrupt your work; I rather want those notes finished tonight if possible. You might leave them on my desk tomorrow, if I am late.'

And he went into his study, still thinking of the problem which the letter from Pringle had raised. He sat down in his large and comfortable chair and re-read the short letter from the missionary. Nothing indicated that the letter was written by a crank: there were no crowded details, no spidery handwriting, or unnecessary length and repetition. Mr Pringle asked permission to come and see the Professor about a case of disappearance. The respondent wrote that he knew the Professor to be an authority on psychic problems, and he wanted to consult him. The professor was favourably impressed.

When he looked up, the missionary was already in the room.

'Your clerk told me I was to come straight in,' said Mr Pringle with a broad and rather agreeable grin. The grin was almost lost in a thick reddish-grey beard and whiskers that covered the missionary's face. He had a snub nose and frank, friendly eyes. Being a man of great detective ability, as he believed, the Professor could tell at once if a man was dishonest or a humbug. He looked attentively at his visitor to see what sort of man Mr Pringle was, but found nothing suspicious about his appearance. In fact, he liked the friendly laughter in Mr Pringle's eyes, the laughter which is never found in the eyes of those who are serious frauds or serious lunatics.

'I hope you don't think I am playing a joke on you, Professor,' he said half seriously. 'But I have to tell my story to someone who knows, because it's true. And all joking apart, it's tragic as well. To cut it short, I was a missionary in Nya-Nya, a station in West Africa, in the thick of the forests where the only other white man was the officer in command of the district, Captain Wales. He and I were very friendly. Not that he liked missions; he was, if I may say so, thick in many ways; one of those square-headed, square-shouldered men of action who hardly need to think, let alone believe.

One day he came to me, after a short leave, and said he wanted to tell me something. He was holding an old book in a leather binding, and he put it down on a table beside his revolver and an old sword he had. He said the book had belonged to a man on the boat he had just come off. The man on the boat had said that if anybody opened the book or looked in, he would be carried off by the devil, or disappear or something. Captain Wales told the man that this was all nonsense, of course, and they had a quarrel. The end of his story was that the man did look into the book and then he walked straight over the side of the boat'

'One moment,' said the Professor, 'before you tell me anything else. Did this man tell Wales where he had got the book, or who it had belonged to before?'

'Yes,' replied Pringle, now quite serious. 'It seems he said he was bringing it back to Dr Hankey, the Oriental traveller to whom it had belonged before. Dr Hankey now lives in England. He had warned the man not to open the book. But let me continue my story. The magic of the book was demonstrated when the man who had looked into it - walked straight over the side of the ship and disappeared.'

'Do you believe it yourself?' asked Openshaw after a pause.

'Well, I do,' replied Pringle. "I believe it for two reasons. First, that Wales was an entirely unimaginative man; and he added one touch that only an imaginative man

could have added. He said that the man walked straight over the side on a still and calm day; but there was no splash.'

The Professor looked at his notes for some seconds in silence, and then said, 'And your other reason for believing it?'

'My other reason,' answered the missionary, 'is what I saw myself.'

Comprehension Check

I. Answer the following questions.

1. What was Professor Openshaw particularly interested in?
2. What did he think of himself as a scientist?
3. What can be said about the Professor's office?
4. Who was he expecting at his office that morning?
5. What did the visitor look like?
6. Could the Professor easily tell honest and sane people from frauds and cranks?
7. What did he like about Mr Pringle's appearance?
8. What story had Captain Smith told the missionary?
9. Why did Mr Pringle believe Captain Wales?
10. What questions did the Professor ask the missionary?

II. Say if it is true or false.

1. The subject-matter of Professor Openshaw's investigation was psychic phenomena.
2. In his works, he always stated clearly that he believed in spirits.
3. That morning, he received a letter from one of his colleagues.
4. He expected his friend, Father Brown, to visit him at his office.
5. The missionary's name was Mr Wales.
6. Berridge was the only clerk of the small office rented by the Professor.
7. The Professor had had a heart-to-heart talk with his secretary before he turned towards his study.
8. At the time the events took place, the missionary lived in a village in western India.
9. Besides Pringle, Captain Wales was the only white man in the neighbourhood.
10. The Captain was a man who had a very vivid imagination.
11. Mr Pringle was told that the man on the boat had disappeared because he had looked into the magic book.
12. The missionary confessed that he had seen a man disappear, too.

Discussion

III. Find proofs in the text to the following statements.

1. Professor Openshaw believed that he was above both Spiritualists and Materialists.
2. Mr Pringle characterized Captain Wales as a primitive man who could not be expected to believe in supernatural forces.
3. The Professor was not quick to believe the story.

IV. What remarks made by Father Brown reveal his attitude to his friend's research?

V. Do you personally think that the Professor was doing serious research?

VI. What details about Mr Pringle's appearance and manner of speaking might have made the Professor trust him?

Grammar and Vocabulary

VII. Open the brackets using the correct tense form of the verb.

1. The man on the boat had said that if anybody (*to open*) the book, he (*to be carried off*) by the devil, or disappear or something.
2. He said he (*to bring*) the book back to Dr. Hankey, the Oriental traveller to whom it (*to belong*) before.
3. Mr Pringle said that he (*not to intend*) to play a joke on the professor.
4. The missionary believed the story because Captain Wales (*to mention*) a very important detail.
5. The Professor asked Pringle if the man on the boat (*to tell*) Wales where he (*to get*) the book.
6. The missionary knew that Doctor Hankey (*to live*) in England.
7. The man disappeared after he (*to look*) into the book.
8. The visitor said that he (*to need*) to tell his story to someone who (*to know*).
9. In his hands, he (*to hold*) an old book in a leather binding.

VIII. Turn the following questions and statements into indirect speech.

Remember the names of the participants of the conversation.

1. 'A man of science isn't trying to prove anything. He's trying to find out what will prove itself.'
2. 'Well, I have some little notions of my own, that are not quite so negative as most people think.'
3. 'Thanks; I will - unless,' said Father Brown modestly, 'the fairies have stolen me by then.'
4. '... and now only this morning I got confirmation.'
5. 'He's coming to see me at my office this morning.'
6. 'I hope you don't think I am playing a joke on you, Professor.'
7. 'But I have to tell my story to someone who knows, because it's true.'
8. 'Do you believe it yourself?'
9. 'Well, I do,' replied Pringle.
10. 'Perhaps you'd lunch with me or something; and I'd tell the results - in confidence.'
11. 'And your other reason for believing it?'
12. 'My other reason,' answered the missionary, 'is what I saw myself.'
13. 'They don't seem to understand that I'm a man of science.'
14. 'It's the disappearances I can't explain, unless they're psychic.'

IX. Choose the Active or the Passive form of the verb.

1. Professor Openshaw (*to get*) infuriated when he (*to call*) a Spiritualist.
2. He (*to believe*) that people's disappearances could (*not to explain*).
3. That morning, an extraordinary letter (*to receive*) by him from an old and quite respectable missionary.
4. The invitation to lunch (*to accept*) by Father Brown with a humorous remark.
5. The secretary (*to instruct*) not to interrupt his work.
6. The letter could not (*to write*) by a crank.
7. The Professor (*to puzzle*) by the missionary's story.
8. A detail (*to mention*), which (*to seem*) convincing to Mr Pringle.

X. Give the English for the following Russian words and word-combinations. Use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

терять самообладание
человек науки
психические явления
исчезать
получить подтверждение
конфиденциально
прерывать работу
в лесной глуши

XI. Give the Russian for the following English words and word-combinations from the text. Remember the situations in which they are used in the text.

missionary
to play a joke on smb.
humbug
joking apart
to cut it short
to be thick
to have a quarrel
to ask permission to do smth.
unimaginative

XII. Paraphrase the following sentences using the expressions from the text.

1. In his works, he always *concealed* whether he believed in spirits or not.
2. He always lost his temper if people said that he *did not believe* in Spiritualism.
3. They are *constantly* asking me what I am trying to prove.
4. He hasn't *revealed* it yet.
5. The people who *disappear* are never seen again.
6. The clerk answered *absent-mindedly* and went on adding up figures.
7. He found nothing *alarming* about the visitor's appearance.
8. Nothing indicated that the letter was written by a *lunatic*.

9. *To put it in a nutshell*, we became friends when I was a missionary in West Africa.

10. He was *dull and silly* in many ways.

XIII. Choose from the words given below the ones that may be used to characterize Professor Openshaw.

Ambitious, broad-minded, self-critical, modest, judicious, open-minded, naive, devoted to science, a person who took his competence for granted, observant, knowledgeable, cautious, self-assured, suffering no inferiority complexes.

Episode II. Two More Cases of Disappearance

There was another silence, then Mr Pringle continued in the same calm way. Whatever he had, he had nothing of the eagerness with which the crank, or even the believer, tried to convince others.

'I told you that Wales put down the book beside the sword. Well, there was only one entrance to the tent, and I was standing in it, looking out into the forest, with my back to my companion. He was standing by the table saying that it was all nonsense and that it was foolish in the twentieth century to be afraid of opening a book. 'Why on earth shouldn't I open it myself?' he said. Then some instinct made me tell him that he had better not do that, that he had better return the book to Dr. Hankey. 'What harm could it do?' he said restlessly. 'What harm did it do?' I answered obstinately. 'What happened to your friend on the boat?' He did not answer. Indeed I didn't know what he could say. 'What is your explanation of what happened on the boat?' Still he didn't answer. Then I looked round and saw that he wasn't there.

The tent was empty. The book was lying on the table, open, but on its face, as if he had turned it downwards. The revolver was lying beside it. But the sword was lying on the ground near the other side of the tent, and there was a great hole in the canvas. It looked as if someone had cut his way out of the tent with the sword.

I have never seen or heard of Captain Wales from that day. Taking good care not to look at it, I shut the book and wrapped it in brown paper. Then I brought it back to England intending at first to return it to Dr Hankey. And then I read an article in a science magazine with your hypothesis about such things. So I decided to stop on the way and put the matter before you, as you have a name for being balanced and having an open mind.'

Professor Openshaw laid down his pen and looked steadily at the man on the other side of the table. He was thinking hard. Was the man a humbug? Was he mad? On the whole, Openshaw was ready to take the story for a pack of lies. Yes, the best hypothesis would be to say that the story was a pack of lies! And yet, he could not make himself believe that the man was simply a liar. He was not trying

to look honest, as most humbugs do. It seemed that he *was* honest in spite of the queerness of his story.

'Mr Pringle,' he said sharply, 'where is this book of yours now?'

The grin reappeared on the bearded face. 'I left it outside,' said Mr Pringle. 'I mean in the outer office. It was a risk, perhaps, but the lesser risk of the two.'

'What do you mean?' asked the Professor. 'Why didn't you bring it straight in here?'

'Because,' answered the missionary, 'I knew that as soon as you saw it, you would open it - before you had heard the story. And I wanted you to think twice about opening it - after you had heard the story.'

Then after a silence he added, 'There was nobody there but your clerk. And he seemed a dull, honest man, busy with his calculations.'

Openshaw laughed unaffectedly. 'Oh, Babbage,' he cried, 'your magic tomes are safe enough with him, I assure you. His name's Berridge - but I often call him Babbage; because he's so exactly like a Calculating Machine. No human being, if you can call him a human being, would be less likely to open other people's brown paper parcels. Well, we may as well go and bring it in now; though I assure you I will consider seriously the course to be taken with it. Indeed, I tell you frankly,' and he stared at the man again, 'that I'm not quite sure whether we ought to open it here and now, or send it to this Dr Hankey.'

The two passed together into the outer office; and even as they did so, Mr. Pringle gave a cry and ran forward towards the clerk's desk. The desk was there; but not the clerk. On the desk, lay an old book in a leather binding. It was lying closed, but as if it had just been opened. The clerk's desk stood against the wide window that looked out into the street. The window was broken; the large hole in it looked as if a human body had just passed through it. There was no other trace of Mr Berridge.

Comprehension Check

I. Answer the following questions.

1. Where did the conversation between Mr Pringle and Captain Wales take place?
2. Could Mr Pringle see his friend well from where he was standing?
3. Did he want to hear his friend's explanation of what had happened on the boat?
4. What was Captain Wales tempted to do?
5. What was the missionary amazed to see when he turned round?
6. What had Mr Pringle done with the book?
7. How had the missionary found out about Professor Openshaw?
8. What two conflicting desires was the Professor torn between after he had heard the story of the Captain's disappearance?
9. How did Mr Pringle explain why he had left the book in the outer office?
10. What did the Professor say about his secretary?
11. Was there a danger of the secretary's opening the book, as Mr Pringle thought?
12. Was the Professor ready to open the book?
13. What did they see in the outer office?

Discussion

II. How do you understand the word *eagerness* in the following sentence?

Whatever he had, he had nothing of the eagerness with which the crank, or even the believer, tried to convince others.

III. How do you explain the fact that Captain Wales had seen the danger of opening the book and yet was eager to open it himself?

IV. Comment on the following sentence. Give the reason for what had made the character say so.

'But I must tell you frankly that I am not quite sure whether we ought to open it here and now, or send it to this Dr Hankey.'

V. What remarks made by the Professor reveal his attitude to his secretary?

VI. Was Professor Openshaw acting wisely? What would you have done if you were in his place?

Grammar and Vocabulary

VII. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate prepositions.

1. 'I was standing ... the tent with my back ... my companion'.
2. 'Why ... earth shouldn't I open it myself?'
3. The revolver was lying ... the book.
4. Someone had cut his way the tent ... the sword.
5. 'I haven't heard ... Captain Wales ... that day'.
6. 'I read an article ... a science magazine ... your hypothesis ... such things'.
7. Openshaw was ready to take the story ... a pack of lies.
8. The two passed together ... the outer office.
9. Mr Pringle gave a cry and ran forward ... the clerk's desk.
10. The large hole ... the window looked as if a human body had just passed ... it.

VIII. Turn the following questions and statements into indirect speech. Remember the names of the participants of the conversation.

1. 'Where is this book of yours now?'
2. 'I will consider seriously the course to be taken with it.'
3. 'Was the man a humbug?'
4. 'Why didn't you bring it straight in here?'
5. 'Your magic tomes are safe enough with him.'
6. 'What harm did it do?'
7. 'What happened to the man on the boat?'
8. 'What is your explanation of what happened on the boat?'

IX. Choose the Active or the Passive form of the verb.

1. The tent (*to cut*), but the book (*to be*) intact.
2. The Professor (*to assail*) by doubts.

3. The book (*to leave*) in the outer office because Mr Pringle was afraid that the professor (*to tempt*) to open it.
4. The window (*to break*) and the clerk (*to be nowhere to see*).
5. Professor Openshaw (*to complement*) on his abilities and skills.

X. Give the English for the following Russian words and word-combinations. Use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

причинить вред
 по пути
 убедить кого-л.
 меньший риск
 намереваться
 научный журнал
 гипотеза
 в кожаном переплётe
 выходить на улицу, лес (*об окне*)
 заставить себя поверить

XI. Give the Russian for the following English words and word-combinations from the text. Remember the situations in which they are used in the text.

queerness
 to unwrap
 to have a name for smth.
 to think twice about doing smth.
 a trace
 liar
 a pack of lies
 humbug
 to have an open mind
 to take good care (*not to do smth.*)

XII. Paraphrase the following sentences using the expressions from the text.

1. *I was tempted to tell him that* he had better not do that, that he had better return the book to Dr. Hankey.
2. Mr. Pringle *cried out* and ran forward towards the clerk's desk.
3. There was no other *sign* of Mr Berridge.
4. *You are known as* a balanced and open-minded man.
5. *To tell the truth*, I'm not quite sure whether we ought to open it here and now.
6. Yes, the best *supposition* would be to say that the story was *phony*.
7. I wanted you *to be careful about* opening the book.
8. There was *only* your clerk there.
9. I knew that *the moment you saw it*, you would open it.
10. So I decided to stop on the way and *consult you*.

Episode III. Doctor Hankey's Meeting His Fate

The two men stood in the office as still as statues; and when the Professor came to life, he slowly turned and held out his hand to the missionary.

'Mr Pringle,' he said, 'I beg your pardon. I beg your pardon that I doubted your story. Now I see. A scientific man can doubt stories, but he can't doubt facts.'

'I suppose,' said Pringle, 'that we ought to ring up his house and find out if he has gone home.'

'I don't know if he is on the telephone,' answered Openshaw, rather absently.

'He lives somewhere up Hampstead way,' I think.' But I suppose somebody will ask for him here, if his friends or family miss him.'

'Could we give a description of him if the police want it?' asked the other.

'The police!' said the Professor. 'A description ... Well, he looked awfully like everybody else. He always wore dark glasses. He was one of those clean-shaven fellows ... But the police ... look here, what are we to do about this mad business?'

'I know what I ought to do,' said the missionary firmly. 'I am going to take this book straight to Dr Hankey, and ask him what on earth it's all about. He lives not far from here, and I'll come straight back and tell you what he says.'

'Oh, very well,' said the Professor at last, as he sat down. For a moment, he was glad to get rid of the responsibility. But long after the quick footsteps of the missionary had died away down the street, the Professor sat in the same position, staring at the wall and thinking hard.

He was still in the same seat and almost in the same position when the same quick footsteps were heard in the street outside, and the missionary entered, this time with empty hands.

'Dr Hankey,' said Mr Pringle, 'wants to keep the book for an hour and think it all over. Then he asks us both to call on him, and he will give us his decision. He specially desired, Professor, that you should come with me on the second visit.'

Openshaw was silent for some time, then he said suddenly, 'Who the devil is Dr Hankey?'

'Do you mean 'is he the devil?'' said Pringle smiling. 'He is a scientific man like you. He has lived in India for a long time and studied local magic there. Perhaps he's not so well-known here. He is yellow-faced and thin, he has a lame leg and loses his temper easily, but I don't know anything definitely wrong about him.'

Professor Openshaw rose heavily and went to the telephone. He rang up Father Brown and invited him to come to dinner instead of lunch. Then he sat down again, lit a cigar and concentrated once again on the strange case.

Father Brown waited for a long time in the vestibule of the restaurant to which he had been invited by the Professor. At last Openshaw and Pringle appeared. It was clear that the Professor was terribly excited by the strange things that he had just seen and heard.

Openshaw and Pringle had found Dr Hankey's house; they had found on the door a brass-plate with the name: 'J. D. Hankey, M. D.' Only they did not find Dr

Hankey himself. They found a parlour with that terrible book lying on the table, as if it had just been read; they found a back door wide-open and a few footmarks on the ground. It was a lame man who had made them, that was clear from the footmarks themselves. There were only a few of them and then ... nothing. There was nothing more they could find out about Dr Hankey. They only knew that he had made his decision: he had read the book and met his fate.

Comprehension Check

I. Answer the following questions.

1. What was the men's reaction to what they saw in the outer office?
2. What did the Professor do when he came to life?
3. What did Mr Pringle suggest doing concerning the secretary?
4. Did the Professor know his secretary's address or telephone number?
5. Could he give a description of Berridge for the police?
6. What way out did Mr Pringle suggest?
7. What did Dr Hankey want Professor Openshaw to do?
8. What was Dr Hankey's identifying mark?
9. What did they see at Dr Hankey's place?
10. What physical evidence did they find?
11. What conclusion did the Professor and the missionary come to?
12. What impact did it have on Professor Openshaw?

II. Complete the following sentences.

1. When the Professor came to life, he slowly turned and ...
2. 'Well, he looked awfully like ...'
3. Then he sat down again, lit a cigar and concentrated once again on ...
4. 'He specially desired, Professor, that you ...'
5. They only knew that he ...

III. Who do the following remarks belong to?

1. 'We ought to ring up his house and find out if he has gone home.'
2. 'Who the devil is Dr Hankey?'
3. 'Perhaps he's not so well-known here.'
4. 'He was one of those clean-shaven fellows ...'
5. 'Then he asks us both to call on him, and he will give us his decision.'
6. 'I know what I ought to do.'
7. 'A scientific man can doubt stories, but he can't doubt facts.'

Discussion

IV. Do you think the professor would have dared to open the book if he had seen it lying on the desk in the outer office?

V. What shows the Professor's mind was still on the alert and open to doubt?

VI. Could the Professor check the story of Dr Hankey?

Grammar and Vocabulary

VII. Open the brackets using the correct tense form of the verb.

1. He promised that in an hour he ... us his decision (*to give*).
2. The Professor was terribly excited by the strange things that he ... (*to see and hear*).
3. Mr Pringle said that Dr Hankey ... for a long time in India studying local magic (*to live*).
4. Professor Openshaw (*not to know*) exactly where his secretary (*to live*).
5. The professor was excited because they ... Dr Hankey in his house (*not to find*).
6. They ... the footmarks of a lame man, but not the man himself (*to see*).
7. It was clear that Dr Hankey ... the book and disappeared (*to read*).

VIII. Turn the following questions and statements into indirect speech.

Remember the names of the participants of the conversation.

- 1 'I beg your pardon that I doubted your story.'
2. 'I don't know if he is on the telephone.'
3. 'Could we give a description of him if the police want it?'
4. 'I am going to take this book straight to Dr Hankey, and ask him what on earth it's all about.'
5. 'Dr Hankey wants to keep the book for an hour and think it all over.'
6. 'Do you mean 'is he the devil?'
7. 'He is yellow-faced and thin, he has a lame leg and loses his temper easily, but I don't know anything definitely wrong about him.'
8. '... 'I suppose somebody will ask for him here, if his friends or family miss him.'
9. '...look here, what are we to do about this mad business?'

IX. Choose the Active or the Passive form of the verb.

1. The Professor hoped that somebody (*to phone*) him if his secretary (*to miss*) by his family or friends.
2. It was clear that no detailed description of Berridge's appearance could (*to give*) by the Professor.
3. Father Brown had to wait long at the restaurant where he (*to agree*) to have dinner with his friend.
4. On the second visit, the Professor (*to invite*) to Dr Hankey's place.
5. Dr Hankey (*not to find*) at home.
6. The footprints of a lame man (*to leave*) on the ground.
7. The book (*to look into*), and Dr Hankey (*to carry off*).

X. Give the English for the following Russian words and word-combinations. Use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

прийти в себя

протянуть руку кому-л.

сомневаться

сосредоточиться

обдумать
дать описание
на мгновение
выяснить
позвонить кому-л. домой

XI. Translate the following sentences using the words from the text.

1. 'Что, *собственно говоря*, всё это значит?'
2. 'Кто, *чёрт возьми*, этот доктор Хэнки?'
3. 'Я не знаю, *есть ли у него телефон*.'
4. 'Я *тут же* вернусь.'
5. Они знали, что он *принял решение*.

XII. Give the Russian for the following English words and word-combinations. Remember the situations in which they are used in the text.

to call on smb.
to miss smb.
to hold out one's hand to smb.
to be terribly excited
to study local magic
to make footmarks on the ground
to meet one's fate
to have a lame leg
to lose one's temper

XIII. Paraphrase the following sentences using the expressions from the text.

1. They knew that he had made his decision and *sealed* his fate.
2. Father Brown heard that there was nothing more they could *learn* about Dr Hankey.
3. The Professor sat in the same position, *lost in thought*.
4. For a moment, he was *relieved to have no responsibility on his hands*.
5. Then he asks us both to *visit* him.
6. What are we to do about this *queer* business?
7. But there's nothing *compromising* about him.

Episode IV. Mr Pringle's Vanishing

When the two came into the entrance of the restaurant, Pringle put the book down suddenly on a small table, as if it burned his fingers. The priest glanced at it curiously. On the front page of the book there was a couplet:

They that looked into this book
Them the Flying Terror took.

Under these lines, there were translations of the couplet in Greek, Latin and French.

'You will dine with us, I hope,' said the Professor to the missionary. But Mr. Pringle shook his head.

'I'm sorry,' he said. 'I can't. I am too excited. I should like to be alone for some time with the book. Could I use your office for an hour or so?'

'I suppose ... I'm afraid it's locked,' said Openshaw in some surprise.

'You forget there's a hole in the window,' said the missionary. He gave the very broadest of all his broad grins and disappeared into the darkness of the street.

'Rather an odd fellow, isn't he?' said the Professor, frowning.

When he turned to Father Brown, he was surprised to find him talking to the waiter who had brought the cocktails. The talk was about the waiter's baby, who had been ill and was now out of danger.

'How did you come to know the man?' asked Openshaw.

'Oh,' said the priest, 'I dine here sometimes, and I've talked to him now and then.'

The Professor, who himself dined there about five times a week, had never thought of talking to the man.

At this moment, a telephone was heard ringing, and the Professor was called to it. It was Pringle's voice.

'Professor,' said the voice, 'I can't stand it any longer. I'm going to look into the book for myself. I'm speaking from your office, and the book is in front of me. If anything happens to me, this is to say good-bye. No ... it's no good trying to stop. You wouldn't be in time, anyhow. I'm opening the book now. I ... '

Openshaw heard a strange noise, something like a sort of shivering or a soundless crash. He shouted the name of Pringle again and again, but he heard no more. He hung up the receiver. Then he went back and quietly took his seat at the dinner-table. And then, as calmly as he could, he told Father Brown every detail of this monstrous mystery.

'Five men have now disappeared in this impossible way,' he said. 'Every case of the five is queer. But the queerest of all is the disappearance of my clerk Berridge because he was the quietest person in the world.'

'Yes,' replied Father Brown, 'it was a queer thing for Berridge to do, of course. He was always so careful to keep all the office business separate from any fun of his own. I'm sure nobody knew that he was quite a humorist at home and ...'

'Berridge!' cried the Professor. 'What on earth are you talking about? Did you know him?'

'Oh, no,' said Father Brown. 'I knew him only as you say I know the waiter. I've often had to wait for you in your office. And of course I passed the time of the day with poor Berridge. He was rather a character, and even eccentric.'

'I'm not sure I understand what you're talking about,' said Openshaw. 'But even if my clerk was eccentric (and I never knew a man who seemed less eccentric than he), it doesn't explain what happened to him. And it certainly doesn't explain the other cases of disappearance.'

'What other cases?' asked the priest.

The Professor stared at him and spoke slowly and loudly as if to a child: 'My dear Father Brown, five men have disappeared.'

'My dear Professor Openshaw, no men have disappeared.'

Father Brown stared back at the Professor and spoke as slowly and as loudly.

'I say that no men have disappeared,' he repeated.

After a moment's silence, he added, 'I suppose the hardest thing is to prove to anybody that $0 \text{ plus } 0 = 0$ '.

'What do you mean?' said the Professor.

'You saw nobody disappear. You did not see the man disappear from the boat. You did not see the man disappear from the tent. You have simply taken the word of Mr. Pringle. And I am sure, you would never have taken his word, if your clerk had not disappeared ...'

'That may be true,' said the Professor nodding slowly. 'But when Berridge did disappear, I knew it was the truth. You say I saw nothing myself. But I did. I saw my own clerk disappear. Berridge did disappear.'

'Berridge did not disappear,' said Father Brown. 'On the contrary.'

'What on earth do you mean by 'on the contrary?'

'I mean,' said Father Brown, 'that he never disappeared. He appeared.'

Comprehension Check

I. Answer the following questions.

1. What did the inscription on the front page of the book warn the reader against?
2. How was Pringle going to get back into the office?
3. Why was the Professor surprised to see Father Brown talking to the waiter?
4. Who did the telephone call come from?
5. What was wrong with the missionary?
6. What had happened to Pringle judging by the end of the telephone conversation?
7. Was the Professor sure that there had been five cases of disappearance?
8. Which of the cases surprised him the most? Why?
9. Why was he astonished at Father Brown's knowing what kind of man Berridge was?
10. Did the friends have the same views on the question of disappearances?

II. Complete the following sentences.

1. Pringle put the book down suddenly on a small table, as if ...'
2. 'He was always so careful to keep all the office business separate from ...'
3. 'But the queerest of all is the disappearance of ...'
4. 'I'm sure nobody knew ...'
5. 'And I am sure, you would never have taken his word, if ...'
6. 'But when Berridge did disappear, ...'
7. 'But even if my clerk was eccentric, it doesn't explain ...'
8. 'I'm not sure I understand what ...'
9. 'What on earth are you talking about? Did you ...?'

10. After a moment's silence, he added, 'I suppose the hardest thing is to prove to anybody ...'

Discussion

III. Was the Professor inclined to treat the incident with Berridge as a proof that all the other cases of disappearance were real? Why?

IV. Comment on the remark: 'Rather an odd fellow, isn't he?'

Why did the Professor frown saying those words?

V. How did the Professor react to the priest's calling Berridge a humourist? What reaction might have been more appropriate under the circumstances?

VI. Speak on the implication of Father Brown's words: 'Berridge never disappeared. He *appeared*.'

Grammar and Vocabulary

VII. Turn the following statements and questions into indirect speech.

1. 'You will dine with us, I hope.'
1. 'Oh, I dine here sometimes, and I've talked to him now and then.'
2. 'I passed the time of the day with poor Berridge.'
3. 'I say that no men have disappeared.'
4. 'What do you mean?'
5. 'You saw nobody disappear.'
6. 'I saw my own clerk disappear.'
7. 'You have simply taken the word of Mr. Pringle.'
8. 'I mean that he never disappeared.'
9. 'Could I use your office for an hour or so?'

VIII. Choose the Active or the Passive form of the verb.

1. The couplet (*to translate*) into Greek, Latin and French.
2. The Professor thought that his office (*to lock*).
3. The telephone (*to ring*), and the Professor (*to call*) to it.
4. Strange noises (*to hear*) in the receiver.
5. Father Brown (*to stress*) the point that nothing (*to see*) by his friend.

IX. Open the brackets using the correct tense form of the verb.

1. Father Brown said that no men ... (*to disappear*).
2. The Professor remarked that it certainly ... the other cases of disappearance (*not to explain*).
3. The missionary said that he ... his friend disappear from the tent (*to see*).
4. It never ... to Professor Openshaw that the waiter could be a person to talk to (*to occur*).
5. The Professor hoped that Mr Pringle ... with them (*to dine*).
6. The missionary answered that he ... time to calm down (*to need*).

7. Professor Openshaw never ... his secretary to be eccentric (*to think*).
8. The Professor nodded saying that it ... be true (*may*).
9. Mr Pringle asked if he ... use the Professor's office for an hour or so (*can*).
10. He said he (*not to be*) sure he (*to understand*) what his friend (*to speak*) about.

X. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate articles.

1. On ... front page of ... book there was ... couplet.
2. All of them had disappeared in ... impossible way.'
3. 'It was ... queer thing for Berridge to do.'
4. 'He was rather ... character.'
5. 'You did not see ... man disappear from ... tent.'
6. 'I knew it was ... truth.'
7. He shouted ... name of Pringle again and again.
8. 'I never knew... man who seemed less eccentric than Berridge.'
9. 'And it certainly doesn't explain ... other cases of disappearance.'
10. The Professor, who dined there about five times ... week, had never thought of talking to ... man.

XI. Give the English for the following Russian words and word-combinations. Use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

странный (*человек*)
 загадочное дело
 пообедать с кем-л.
 быть вне опасности
 коротать время с кем-л.
 возбуждённый
 взглянуть с любопытством
 двустишие
 покачать головой
 ухмылка

XII. Translate the following sentences from Russian into English using the words from the text.

1. Мистер Прингл *широко улыбнулся* и исчез.
2. Профессора *позвали к телефону*.
3. Он услышал нечто вроде *дрожания* или *беззвучного падения*.
4. 'Не пытайтесь помочь. Вы *не успеете*.'
5. Профессор кричал в трубку телефона, *без конца повторяя имя Прингла*, но ответа не было.
6. Он *повесил трубку*.
7. Профессор спокойно *сел за стол*.
8. Он говорил медленно и громко, *как с ребёнком*.
9. 'Вы говорите, что сам я ничего не видел. *Но я видел*.'

XIII. Translate the couplet on the front of the book from English into Russian, if possible, in the form of a verse.

XIV. Give the Russian for the following English words and word-combinations . Remember the situations in which they occur in the text.

to be eccentric
to keep business separate from fun
to come to know smb.
to be quite a humourist
to prove to smb. that ...
to glance at smth. curiously
to stare back at smb.
on the contrary
to take smb.'s word for smth.
to be a queer thing for smb. to do

XV. Paraphrase the following sentences using the expressions from the text.

1. I've talked to him *from time to time*.
2. I'd *rather be alone* for some time with the book.
3. Rather a *queer* fellow!
4. How did you *get acquainted*?
5. I can't *bear* it any longer.
6. It's no *use* trying to stop.
7. Every case of disappearance is *strange*.
8. He didn't disappear. *Quite the reverse*.
9. You didn't put it to proof. You *just believed what he said*.

Episode V. Father Brown's Eye-Opener

Openshaw stared across the table at his friend. The priest went on: 'He appeared in your study, disguised in a thick red beard, and announced himself as Mr. Pringle. And you had never noticed your own clerk enough to recognize him in such a simple disguise.

'But listen,' began the Professor.

'Could you describe him for the police?' asked Father Brown. 'Not you. You probably knew he was clean-shaven and wore dark glasses. Taking off those glasses was a better disguise than putting on anything else. You had never seen his eyes, his jolly laughing eyes. He put his absurd 'magic' book on the table in your office. Then he calmly broke the window, put on the beard and cape and walked into your study, knowing that you would never recognize him because you had never looked at him in your life.'

'But why should he play such a mad joke on me?' asked Openshaw.

'Why, because you had never looked at him in your life,' said Father Brown. 'You called him the Calculating Machine, because that was all you ever used him

for. You never found out that he was a character; that he had his own view on you and your theories and your reputation for 'spotting' people. Can't you understand his itching to prove that you couldn't spot your own clerk?

He has nonsense notions of all sorts. About collecting useless things, for instance. Don't you know the story of the woman who bought the two most useless things: an old doctor's brass-plate and a wooden leg? With those, your ingenious clerk created the character of the remarkable Dr Hankey; as easily as the visionary Captain Wales. Planting them in his own house - '

'Do you mean that place we visited beyond Hampstead was Berridge's own house?' asked Openshaw.

'Did *you* know his house - or even his address?' replied the priest. 'Look here, don't think I'm speaking disrespectfully of you or your work. You are a great servant of truth, and you know I could never be disrespectful to that. You've seen through a lot of liars. But don't look at liars *only*. *Do*, just occasionally, look at honest men - like the waiter.'

'Where is Berridge now?' asked the Professor after a long silence.

'I'm sure,' said Father Brown, 'that he is back in your office. In fact, he came back into your office at the exact moment when Pringle, the missionary, opened the book and disappeared.'

There was another long silence, and then Professor Openshaw laughed. He laughed with the laugh of a great man who is great enough to look small. Then he said:

'I suppose I *do* deserve it for not noticing the nearest helpers I have. But don't you think that all those incidents coming one after the other could frighten anybody? Did you *never* feel - just for a moment - that you were frightened of that awful book?'

'Oh, that,' said Father Brown. 'I opened it as soon as I saw it lying there. It's all blank pages. You see, I am not superstitious.'

Comprehension Check

I. Answer the following questions.

1. Did Father Brown describe in detail how the Professor's secretary had tricked him?
2. What was enough for Berridge to do in order to disguise himself completely?
3. Could the Professor understand why his secretary had played such a joke on him?
4. What qualities of Berridge were completely unknown to the Professor?
5. Was Berridge no more than a function, a Calculating Machine to him?
6. Did Berridge turn out to be a good psychologist and master of the detective genre?
7. Did Father Brown give his explanation in a tactful and convincing way?
8. Who and what did Professor Openshaw laugh at?
9. Did he admit that the book was really awful and scary?

10. Did the priest manage to make his friend realize that he should be more observant and pay more attention to the people around him?

II. Say if it is true or false. Substantiate your point.

1. Berridge had played a joke on the professor because he hated him for his indifference to him.
2. Father Brown thought it unnatural not to know anything about the people closest to you.
3. The priest thought Berridge was an interesting man to deal with.
4. The Professor was hurt by what his secretary had done to him.
5. He nearly quarrelled with Father Brown.
6. The Professor asked about Berridge because he wanted to find him and punish him for his mad joke.
7. Berridge had never tried to show the Professor that he was a different person from what he thought him to be.
8. The professor had never discussed his theories with Berridge.
9. Professor Openshaw showed greater interest in science than in the people around him.
10. It took Father Brown some time to convince his friend.

Discussion

III. Comment on the following cases of italics.

1. 'Did *you* know his house - or even his address?'
2. 'But don't *only* look at liars.' '*Do*, just occasionally, look at honest men - like the waiter.'
3. 'I suppose I *do* deserve it for not noticing the nearest helpers I have.'
4. 'Did you *never* feel - just for a moment - that you were frightened of that awful book?'

IV. Substantiate your answers to the following questions.

1. What made the Professor ask the priest where Berridge might be?
2. Do you think Father Brown might have helped the secretary in realizing his plan?
3. Did Father Brown know people better than his friend?
4. Why did it take the Professor so long to realize his mistake?
5. What proofs can you give to the fact that Professor Openshaw concentrated on his own feelings and thoughts and left important details unnoticed?
6. Was the Professor's laughter a positive sign?
7. Do you think Berridge's joke will have an effect on his relations with the Professor? Will they remain the same or change for the better (*for the worse*)?
8. Will it affect Professor Openshaw's further research?
9. Will it teach him to be more self-critical and have a realistic opinion of himself?
10. How are our views and opinions formed? Why do we believe or disbelieve?
11. Do our views influence our work and relations with the people around us?

12. What is your attitude to mysterious phenomena? Why are a lot of people interested in them? What TV shows and publications can be mentioned in this respect?

13. Are personal and professional qualities often interconnected?

V. Which of the qualities listed below did Berridge need to have played such a joke on his chief? Prove your point making reference to the text.

Moral courage, imagination, intelligence, resourcefulness, a sense of humour, self-respect, a good knowledge of human psychology, independent thinking, interest in life, a desire for self-assertion, love of fun, ambition, an urge for fairness.

VI. Comment on the sentence:

He laughed with the laugh of a great man who is great enough to look small.

Grammar and Vocabulary

VII. Turn the following statements and questions into indirect speech.

1. 'Where is Berridge now?'
2. 'I'm sure that he is back in your office.'
3. 'You don't know his address and you can't describe him for the police.'
4. 'You have never seen his laughing eyes and you have never noticed that he was a character.'
5. 'You had never noticed your own clerk enough to recognize him in such a simple disguise.'
6. 'He created the character of Dr Hankey as easily as he created the character of Captain Wales.'
7. 'I know that you are a great servant of truth and that you have seen through a lot of liars.'
8. 'I think highly of your theories, and I don't think I'm speaking disrespectfully of you or your work.'
9. 'Taking off those glasses was a better disguise than putting on anything else.'
10. 'But don't you think that all those incidents coming one after another could frighten anybody?'

VIII. Choose the Active or the Passive form of the verb.

1. Berridge (*to consider*) by the Professor to be a dull and insignificant man.
2. The secretary (*to disguise*) by the simplest things.
3. He was sure he (*not to recognise*) because the Professor (*never to look*) at him.
4. Openshaw (*to believe*) he (*to play*) a mad joke on.
5. Berridge (*not to spot*) by a person with a reputation for 'spotting' people.

IX. Paraphrase the following sentence paying special attention to the italics.

'Can't you understand his *itching* to prove that you couldn't spot your own clerk?'

X. Translate the following English words and word-combinations into Russian.

to be out of danger
disguise
to see through a liar
to create an image of smb.
to spot people
ingenious
the visionary Captain Wales

XI. Give the English for the following Russian words and word-combinations. Use them in sentences of your own based on the text.

носить тёмные очки
нелепая 'волшебная' книга
иметь свой взгляд на что-л.
говорить неуважительно о ком-л. или о чём-л.
заслуживать чего-л.
пустые страницы
суеверный
ближайшие помощники
хотя бы иногда

XII. Guess as to the meaning of the word *eye-opener*. Choose the variant that suits best.

- a) an enforced opinion or perception of something
- b) something that shows things in their true light
- c) something showy, done with the purpose to impress

XIII. Paraphrase the following sentences using the expressions from the text.

1. Openshaw *was looking intently* across the table at his friend.
2. But why should he play such *an outrageous* joke on me?
3. He appeared in your study, *made unrecognizable by a thick red beard*, and *introduced himself* as Mr. Pringle.
4. Can't you understand his *desire* to prove that you couldn't spot your own clerk?
5. With those, your *resourceful* clerk created the character of the remarkable Dr Hankey.
6. Look here, *I don't look down on your work*.
7. *From time to time*, look at honest men.
8. I suppose *it serves me right* for not noticing the nearest helpers I have.
9. But don't you think that all those incidents coming one after the other could be *scary* to anybody?
10. I opened it *the moment* I saw it lying there.

Quiz

I. See if you remember the following details.

A Taste of Murder

1. The first names of:
 - a) Miss Vixon
 - b) Anne's boyfriend
 - c) the vicar
 - d) Mr Blakemore
2. The family names of:
 - a) the Inspector
 - b) the vicar
 - c) the Doctor
 - d) the nurse
3. The name of the house the events take place in.
4. The occupation of the nurse's prospective husband.
5. The meaning of the abbreviation PC in the form of address *PC Hemmings*.
6. Miss Vixon's position in the house.
7. The name of the village Mrs Blakemore lived in.
8. The name of the town the nurse was to go to in order to buy a new tube of Mrs Blakemore's favourite toothpaste.
9. The sum of money left to Mrs Blakemore's nephew.
10. The name of the precious stone used as a decoration of Anne's ring.
11. The dish Mrs Blakemore had for her last supper.
12. The poisons used as a tool of murder.
13. The decoration Mr Blakemore gave Charlotte.
14. The name of the psychic disturbance ascribed to Mrs Blakemore (*extreme depression of mind or spirits*).
15. The part of the country Mr Blakemore was in when his wife died.

The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place

1. The surname of:
 - a) Sir Robert's butler
 - b) the man with a rat-like face
 - c) the innkeeper
 - d) Lady Beatrice's maiden name
 - e) Sir Robert
2. The name of:
 - a) Sir Robert's favourite horse
 - b) the horse race Sir Robert was going to win
 - d) the nearby inn Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson stayed at

- e) the lake in Shoscombe Park
 - f) Lady Beatrice's maid
3. The part of the church where the bodies of the deceased owners of Shoscombe Old Place were kept in
 4. The object Sir Robert had beaten Sam Brewer with.
 5. Those who lent money to people professionally.
 6. The dish Holmes and Watson had for their supper.
 8. The occupation of Mr Norlett.
 9. The people who gathered and sold secret information about racehorses.
 10. The place Lady Beatrice's body was kept in first.
 11. The dry remains of a body in a coffin in the crypt.
 12. The treat Lady Beatrice used to give to the Prince.
 13. The sport Sir Robert was doing.
 14. The sum of money Sir Robert won.
 15. Sir Robert's fate depended on the police and the coroner. What does a coroner do?

The Blast of the Book

1. The full name of Professor Openshaw.
2. The country Mr Pringle had presumably worked in.
3. The colour of Mr Pringle's beard.
4. The nickname the Professor thought suited his secretary well.
5. The only two things the Professor remembered about his secretary's appearance.
6. The title and name of the Professor's friend.
7. The name of the man Mr Pringle was to take the book to.
8. The words the abbreviation *MD* on Doctor Hankey's door stands for.
9. The mathematical equation Father Brown used in his talk with the Professor.
10. The objects that had helped Berridge create the character of Doctor Hankey.
11. The number of men that had 'disappeared'.
12. The name of Mr Pringle's friend.
13. The subject matter of Professor Openshaw's investigation.
14. The weapon a big hole in the tent was made with.
15. The men who had vanished.

II. Which of the stories do the following sentences refer to?

1. 'He asks us both to call on him, and he will give us his decision'.
2. There was no one in the office, and the window was broken.
3. 'But there are few in that county that would have the nerve to go near it at night'.
4. 'Every day at the same hour she would drive down to see them'.
5. He put his hands over his face.
6. When she didn't answer, he knocked again, louder this time.
7. 'You left without a reference, and yet you were accepted here'.
8. 'He's a terrible man with his fists if he gets started'.
9. 'He wanted her to marry him, but she told him not to be silly'.
10. I also saw a yellow face, all nose and chin.

11. She seemed sorry for him.
12. Everyone seemed nervous and uncomfortable.
13. They looked surprised, which showed that they did not know what had happened.
14. He was ready to take the story for a pack of lies.
15. He had his own view on you and your theories and your reputation for 'spotting' people.
16. 'He could run!'
17. 'You can't tell them apart.'
18. I stood unconcernedly swinging a cane in the doorway.
19. They found a back door wide-open and a few footmarks on the ground.
20. There were two stone dogs - one on either side of the front door.

III. What stories are the following expressions taken from?

1. to strike first and speak afterwards
2. to be useless
3. a well-known Curzon Street money-lender
4. to have a motive for the crime
5. to complain about something
6. to be a Calculating Machine
7. to be mean (*greedy*)
8. to be a man of science
9. sweet smell
10. to play a joke on smb.
11. chocolates
12. to win the race
13. disappearances
14. a scientific man
15. to depend on smb. financially
16. evidence
17. to bring the facts to light
18. a perfect murder
18. dog shows
19. autopsy
20. furnace

IV. Who is the character?

1. Strong and brave, proud, straightforward, but impulsive, hot-tempered, quick to take offence and ready to fight.
2. Intelligent, but arrogant, scornful and rude.

3. Clever, honest, truthful, possessing powers of observation, logical thinking and the makings of a researcher or investigator.
4. Industrious, devoted to science, interested in research, but opinionated, vane and inattentive to people.
5. Rich, successful, outwardly respectable, smart, but utterly egoistic, scheming, perfidious and capable of crime.
6. A devoted friend, a reliable assistant, a perfect companion, a quiet and well-wishing person.
7. Emotional, outspoken, simple-minded, naive, with the feeling of fairness, but not altogether honest and capable of theft.
8. Responsible, straight and honest, but not quick to forgive.
9. Polite, but not very clever and lacking professional knowledge and skills.
10. Quiet, devoted, not rich and always worrying about lack of money for social, not personal needs.
11. Reserved, sensible, calm and controlled, well-bred, tolerant, empathetic.
12. Intelligent, shrewd, observant, possessing brilliant powers of analysis, capable of solving any complicated problem, often to the amazement and admiration of others.
13. Unbiased, professional, caring and fair.
14. Wise, broadminded, interested in the people around, respectful, sincere, fair, a good friend.
15. Responsible, having the sense of personal dignity and self-respect, imaginative, resourceful, daring.
16. Honest, serious, fair, possessing common sense, eager to find the truth.
17. Fair-haired, young, prudent, cooperative, capable of running a risk, ready to help.
18. Kind, generous, loving, fond of horses and dogs, sick.
19. Having the ability to act (*to impersonate*), related to a person close to the late Lady Beatrice, cowardly, having a drinking problem.

V. Match the following.

1. But for Anne,	a) the investigation would have taken longer time to complete.
2. Had Sir Robert not found a way out,	b) the evidence of poisoning would never have been found.
3. The new nurse couldn't have saved Mrs Blakemore because	c) there was too little time to act.
4. If Professor Openshaw had paid more attention to the people around him,	d) he would have been ruined.
5. If Mrs Blakemore had suspected anyone from the household,	e) the whole affair might have ended in a quarrel.
6. But for the episode with the dog,	f) the crime would not have been committed.
7. If the priest were not broad-minded and tactful,	g) he might have recognised his secretary in disguise.
8. If Mrs Blakemore's husband were a decent man,	h) he would have taken offence.
9. If it were not for Berridge's resourcefulness,	i) she would have taken measures immediately.
10. If Professor Openshaw lacked the sense of humour,	j) he wouldn't have played the trick on the Professor so successfully.

VI. In which of the three stories the action centres on:

- a) a fighter (*in the broad sense of the word, a fighter with the circumstances of life*)?
- b) a clever and ruthless criminal?
- c) a tireless searcher of truth?

ЗАКЛЮЧЕНИЕ

Чтение художественной литературы на иностранном языке - интересный и познавательный процесс и, одновременно, благодатный материал для изучения современного английского языка. Оно даёт возможность ближе ознакомиться с особенностями языка художественного произведения, разговорной речи персонажей, её лексическим составом и синтаксическим построением.

Читая увлекательный рассказ детективного жанра, мы не только испытываем удовольствие от сюжетных коллизий, но узнаём многое о стране изучаемого языка, её истории, жизни людей, их занятиях, взаимоотношениях, поведении в различных ситуациях общения. Наш словарный запас при этом пополняется новыми именами, географическими названиями, лексикой, относящейся к реалиям культуры и быта.

Художественное произведение способствует работе над чтением и является прекрасным материалом для развития навыков устной речи, умения дискутировать, наблюдать и обобщать, выражать согласие и несогласие, одобрение и осуждение, проявлять разные формы речевого взаимодействия.

Кроме того, работа над художественным текстом позволяет активно использовать весь грамматический материал курса, предоставляет возможность регулярной тренировки в построении предложения (утвердительной, вопросительной, отрицательной формы), употреблении грамматических времён, предлогов, артиклей, косвенной речи, лексической сочетаемости слов, стилистической дифференциации языковых единиц.

Иными словами, чтение художественного текста способствует совершенствованию важнейших видов речевой деятельности, поддерживает интерес к языку и является незаменимым средством его изучения.

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