



Fletcher and Walsh

A short time later, Inspector Roberta Fletcher of the Metropolitan Police is sitting at her desk. There is a knock at the door.

"Come in."

Roberta's assistant Jack Walsh enters the room. Roberta looks at him and sees a very fit man in his thirties, who goes to a fitness club every day of the year. He has bright red hair and wears glasses with thick black frames. Jack is a **confirmed bachelor**. He still lives with his mother in Wembley and loves **researching murder cases** from the nineteenth century.

Roberta smiles at his **tweed** suit and colourful **dickie bow**.

"Jack, I'll have to take you shopping for clothes. You look like a very boring English professor."

Jack **stares** into her brown eyes.

"Yes, Roberta. You say that at least once a week."

Jack is interrupted by Roberta's telephone. She picks it up.

"Inspector Fletcher here?"

"Hello, Inspector. This is **Constable** Foster. I **received** a call from a Mr Adam Giles a few minutes ago. He asked for you by name."



confirmed bachelor

überzeugter Junggeselle

to research

(er)forschen

murder

Mord

case

hier: Fall; Koffer

tweed

Wollstoff, Tweed

dickie bow

Fliege (Krawatte)

to stare

starren

constable

Polizist, Wachtmeister

to receive

erhalten; empfangen

choking
noises pl

bell

receiver



Würgege räusche

Klingel, Glocke

Telefonhörer;
Empfänger

"I know Mr Giles, Constable. What does he want?"
"Well, that's the strange thing, Inspector. He seemed to be cut off, but I could hear **choking noises** in the background."

Roberta starts taking notes. "Did he give you his address?"

"No, but I have it here on my computer screen."

"Okay. Give it to me please."

"It's Adam Giles, 38 Frith Street, a newsagent's in Soho."

"Right, thanks. We're on our way."

Roberta tells Jack what the phone call was about and they leave the office quickly.

Exercise 4: True or false? Welche der folgenden Aussagen sind wahr? Kreuzen Sie an!

1. Marco is from Italy. ☐
2. Jack is Roberta's assistant. ☐
3. Roberta is an inspector. ☐
4. Adam Giles is very handsome. ☐
5. Jack hates sport. ☐
6. Jack has short, blond hair. ☐

They arrive fifteen minutes later. Roberta tries the shop door and it opens. As she puts her foot on the doormat, a **bell** starts ringing at the back of the shop. Jack follows Roberta in and both look around the shop. Roberta hears a strange noise and walks to the counter. She sees the telephone, but the **receiver** is hanging somewhere

behind the counter. She leans over the counter and **catches her breath**.

"Jack!"

"Be patient, Roberta. I haven't found anything yet."

Roberta shouts, "Jack! I've found a body. I think it's Giles."

Jack runs behind the counter.

"You're right, Roberta. It's Giles."

He's dead. Look, you call for **back-up** and I'll stay here with the body.

Roberta walks to the door and calls the **emergency services** on her mobile phone. Just as she hangs up, an old woman tries to enter the shop and Roberta blocks her way.

"I'm sorry Madam, but you can't come in here."

"Why not? The sign says 'open' and I need to buy a newspaper."

"I'm afraid that's not possible, Madam. This shop is now a **crime scene**."

The old lady put her hand to her mouth. "**Oh dear!** What happened then?"

"Erm... There was an accident, Madam. Could you please leave now?"

"Oh, all right. You should be out **arresting** those dangerous drivers. One left this shop half an hour ago and nearly ran me down. Good-bye."

It takes a few seconds for Roberta to understand what the old woman is saying.

"One moment please, Madam. Could you say that again, please?"

"First you want me to leave and now you want me to stay. You young people don't know what you want."

"Yes. You're right, Madam. Now, could you please repeat what you said?"

to catch
one's breath

back-up

emergency
service

I'm afraid (not)

crime scene

Oh dear!

to arrest

den Atem
anhalten

Verstärkung

Notdienst

leider (nicht)

Tatort

Meine Güte!; Oje!

verhaften



"I said: I need to buy a newspaper."

"I don't mean that, Madam. Would you please repeat what you said after that?"

Exercise 5: Opposites. Lesen Sie weiter und tragen Sie das Gegenteil der angegebenen Wörter ein!

"Well. Half an hour ago I was crossing the **zebra crossing** about a hundred yards up the street. I saw a car stop

1. inside _____ the shop and a man got

2. out _____. Then the driver just raced along

the street and nearly knocked me 3. up _____. He didn't even brake, the hooligan."

"I see, Madam. Did it really take you half an hour to

4. run _____ a hundred yards to the shop?"

The 5. young _____ lady's face reddened.

"Well, I saw Mrs Dowd in her garden, so I had to tell her about my escape from 6. life _____."

"I understand, Madam. Can you describe the car or the two

7. women _____, please?"

"The car is 8. black _____ and quite small.

I'm not usually 9. bad _____ at makes, but it

looks the same as my **nephew's**. German, I think. Something to do with sport."

"Do you mean 'Golf', Madam?" Roberta asks.

"Yes. That's it."

"What about the men, Madam. Can you describe them for me?"

"Not really. They both have dark hair and aren't **pale** enough to be Englishmen. I would say Italian or Greek."

"And do you perhaps remember the **registration number** of the car, Madam?"

"No. My eyes are not as good as they **used to be**. Although I remember a 'B' registration. That's the same as my nephew's car, but his is red."

"Well. Thank you very much, Madam. Your information helps me a lot."

"You're welcome," the old lady replies. "You are a very nice girl. Pretty, too, and so polite. I don't meet many of those **nowadays**.

Goodbye, my dear."

Roberta turns and smiles. It's nice to be called a girl again, she thinks.

While Roberta is talking to the woman, Jack is looking around the shop. He is very careful not to **disturb** any **evidence**. He finds nothing in the shop, though, and goes through to the back room. It is used as a **storeroom** and has a little **kitchenette**. Dirty dishes with left-over food are lying in the sink and Jack holds his nose in **disgust**.

He turns and looks slowly around the room. The first thing he notices is that the table and chairs aren't straight. He's not surprised,



zebra crossing	Zebrastreifen
make	Marke, Fabrikat
nephew	Neffe
pale	blass, bleich
registration number	polizeiliches Kennzeichen
used to be	(mal) gewesen sein
nowadays	heutzutage
to disturb	hier: durcheinanderbringen
evidence	Beweis(e)
storeroom	Lagerraum
kitchenette	Kochnische
disgust	Ekel



tidy	ordentlich, aufgeräumt
handle	Griff; (Tür-)Klinke
to whistle	pfeifen
trapdoor	Falltür
switch	Schalter
mounted on	montiert auf
handrail	Handlauf
amazement	Erstaunen
neat	ordentlich
gadget	Gerät, technische Spielerei
kind	Art, Sorte

mounted on the handrail and pushes it down.

Suddenly there is light and Jack goes down a few steps. His mouth opens in amazement. The room is neat, clean and organized. The shelves on all four walls are full of weapons and gadgets of every kind. Jack quickly goes back up the steps and goes outside to look for Roberta.

Police cars are now arriving at the shop, and Roberta shows them where to find the body. She is writing down what the old lady said, when Jack comes out of the shop. She tells Jack about the old lady and Jack tells her about his discovery. Then they go back into the newsagent's, where Jack shows Roberta where he found the weapons.

Together, they have another look around the shop, to see if they

because Mr Giles wasn't a very tidy person. Then he sees that a corner of the carpet is folded over.

Jack bends down to straighten it and discovers a handle built into the wooden floor. He whistles and pulls the carpet all the way back. There is a trapdoor set into the floor.

He grabs the handle and pulls the trapdoor open. There are steps leading down into the darkness. Jack sees a switch

can find any helpful clues. However, they find nothing of interest.

Then the shop is full of people. A doctor is examining Mr Giles as a grey-haired man approaches Roberta and Jack.

"Hello, Inspector Fletcher. Didn't we work together on the murder in the docks last year?" he asks.

"Yes we did, Mr Harris. How are you?"

"I'm fine thanks, Inspector." He looks at Jack.

"I'm sorry, Mr Harris. This is Jack Walsh, my assistant," Roberta explains.

"I'm pleased to meet you, Mr Walsh," the forensics expert replies.

"Right, we need to start collecting evidence, so I'm afraid I will have to ask you to leave now."

"We understand, Mr Harris. Goodbye then."

Mr Harris waves his hand at them as he opens his case full of instruments.

Roberta and Jack decide to go back to the office and try and trace the car.

Jack tells Roberta that there are thousands of white Golfs registered in London, but only 84 have a "B" registration. Jack prints the 84 registration numbers out and gives Roberta half of them. After ten minutes, Roberta leans back in her chair.

"This isn't getting us anywhere, Jack. Can you think of anything else we could try?"

"I have an idea. Why don't we run the 84 names through our criminal files? There's a pretty good chance that whoever is involved has a criminal record."

"Good idea, Jack! Let's do that."



clue	Hinweis, Spur
docks pl	Hafen(anlage)
forensics	Spurensicherung
to trace	aufspüren; (zurück) verfolgen
file	Akte; Datei
to involve	beteiligen
criminal record	Vorstrafe; Vorstrafenregister

Achtung Aussprache:

Wenn der Artikel the vor einem Vokal steht, wird das e wie i gesprochen. Bei the lady hört man ein e, bei the old lady ein i.

the lady [ðəleɪdi]

the old lady [ðiəʊldleɪdi]

Exercise 6: Multiple choice. Wählen Sie die richtige Variante aus!

1. Roberta is a very _____ girl.
 - a) ☐ bad
 - b) ☐ angry
 - c) ☒ nice

2. The table and chairs aren't _____.
 - a) ☐ wood
 - b) ☒ straight.
 - c) ☐ metal

3. This is Jack, my _____.
 - a) ☐ husband
 - b) ☐ boyfriend
 - c) ☒ assistant

4. I am _____ to meet you.
 - a) ☐ pleased
 - b) ☐ lucky
 - c) ☐ angry

5. Mr Giles wasn't a very _____ person.
 - a) ☐ happy
 - b) ☐ tidy
 - c) ☐ satisfied

6. Jack's mouth opens in _____.
 - a) ☐ amazement
 - b) ☐ anger
 - c) ☐ disgust