

The Spy's Last Shot

Niveau B1

Gina Billy



Shots in the Dark

Brian Buckley was filling another glass with local beer in his pub on Tomb Street. It had been busy for a Tuesday night in Belfast, but business was finally slowing down. Brian finished **pulling the pint** for one of his last customers and ran a hand through his short grey hair. He looked up at the clock on the wall. There was still half an hour until closing time. But even then, his work day wouldn't be finished. He thought about the secret meeting that was planned for later that night. Hopefully, both of the ladies he was expecting would arrive at the pub on time and everything would go as planned. But now he needed to serve the round of drinks to the group of men sitting at the other end of the bar. The five of them were all **regulars** at "Buckley's". They came to the pub several nights a week to drink and talk. Tonight, they were **going on about** a group of scientists and researchers visiting Belfast from its **twin city** Hefei in China. Brian was secretly very interested in their conversation, and he was listening carefully as he brought over their drinks.

"Well, if you ask me, the **Lord Mayor's** just **wasting** our money giving a big party tonight for those foreigners," said Thomas McNeil. Brian put the pints down in front of them and Thomas continued giving his opinion.

to pull a pint
regulars pl

to go on
about sth.

twin city
Lord Mayor

to waste



ein Bier zapfen

Stammgäste

sich über etw.
auslassen

Partnerstadt

Oberbürger-
meister

verschwenden

"And besides, everybody knows they're just coming over here to steal our business secrets." Thomas raised his glass and said "cheers".

Then Jerry Ryan, a younger man, spoke up. "Well, I don't know about that, Thomas. I think it's a **grand** thing for Belfast to have visitors. After all, we had enough years during **the Troubles** when nobody felt safe coming here."

When Ryan said "The Troubles", the men suddenly became quiet. They didn't like thinking about the time of terror in the past.

Thomas quickly turned the conversation back to China.

"Remember what Arthur Stevens told us a few weeks ago? He said his **engineering** company was losing millions of pounds every year because of... what was it? Oh yes, '**industrial espionage**'."

grand IRL

the Troubles pl

engineering

industrial
espionage



großartig

der Nordirland-
konflikt

Maschinenbau

Wirtschafts-
spionage

Exercise 1: Prepositions. Lesen Sie weiter und ergänzen Sie die fehlenden Präpositionen!

on into about of with in

Brian really didn't want to talk 1. _____ that topic 2. _____ his regulars. Before he could think 3. _____ a way to change the subject, the bell hanging 4. _____ the pub's front door rang. A man dressed 5. _____ a dark business suit walked 6. _____ the pub.

He looked oriental. The other guests immediately stopped talking about the Chinese and stealing secrets. The man said "good evening." Then he sat down at the other end of the bar and Brian went over to take his order.

The glass of champagne in Zheng Cai's hand was almost empty. She had another look at her watch. It was almost time for her to leave the Lord Mayor's **reception**. Zheng Cai smiled politely up at her boss Arthur Stevens and the visiting Chinese computer expert, Dr.

reception	 (offizieller) Empfang
stained-glass	Buntglas
magnificent	prachtvoll, großartig
City Hall	Rathaus
dressed up	aufgetakelt, schick angezogen
to sip	nippen, trinken
⚡ to feel a bit under the weather	sich etw. angeschlagen fühlen

Liu Jing.

The three of them were standing under one of the seven beautiful **stained-glass** windows in the Great Hall. It was the most **magnificent** of the three reception rooms at Belfast's **City Hall**. Tonight it was filled with local politicians, business leaders and the guests from Hefei. They were all **dressed up** and most of them were **sipping** champagne out of expensive crystal glasses. The Lord Mayor had just finished giving a long speech. Now, Mr Stevens was telling

Dr. Liu about his business interests in China.

Cai was trying very hard to seem interested, but her thoughts were far away. In just half an hour, she was meeting her contact again. It would be the third – and hopefully last – of their very risky meetings. Cai was nervous.

"And you, Ms Zheng? Would you also like some more?"

Dr. Liu was looking at Cai's empty glass.

"Oh, that's very kind of you, Dr. Liu, but actually, I'm **feeling a bit under the weather**. In fact, I think I really should go home."

"That's a great pity, Ms Zheng. I was looking forward to, um, getting to know you better." Dr. Liu looked quite disappointed.

"I hope you haven't got a **bug**, Cai." Mr Stevens' comment made Cai's heart beat faster. She did have a bug, but not the kind Mr Stevens meant. The bug she had was used for secretly recording people's conversations.

"Oh, I'm sure I'll be fine in the morning, sir," she promised. "After all, I wouldn't want to miss showing Dr. Liu and the other guests from Hefei around the company tomorrow."

Cai said goodbye to the two men and walked to the main exit.

bug



hier: Bazillus; Wanze

better safe than sorry

Vorsicht ist besser als Nachsicht

Exercise 2: Synonyms. Welche Wörter gehören zusammen? Ordnen Sie zu!

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. ☐ risky | a) worried |
| 2. ☐ magnificent | b) dangerous |
| 3. ☐ kind | c) splendid |
| 4. ☐ nervous | d) nice |

Across the room, a blonde woman wearing a blue, silk dress watched Cai make her departure. The Lord Mayor's special assistant, Tamsin O'Reilly waited until Cai was out of the room. Then she pulled a tiny mobile phone from her evening bag and quickly texted a message. The words on the display read "she's on her way." Tamsin hit the send key and then made sure to delete the message from her phone – **better safe than sorry**, she thought.

"Sorry, sir, what did you say? I couldn't quite hear your order." At first, the stranger at the bar didn't answer Brian's question. He was busy reading a message that had just arrived on his mobile. After he put the phone back in his pocket, the man apologized and spoke up.

"Pardon me. I'll have a **pint** of Guinness and a shot of your best whiskey, please." The man spoke with a heavy Chinese accent. Brian quickly prepared and served the drinks.

"Can I get you anything else, sir? It's almost time for **last orders**."

"Well, actually, you can Mr Buckley, or should I call you 'Buckles'?"

You can call last orders right now. Your operation is about to go out of business. Permanently."

The man said these words very quietly and then pulled back the coat that was covering one of his hands. In it, he was holding a gun. It was pointed directly at Brian.

pint	<i>hier:</i> Glas; (= 0,568 l)
last orders	letzte Bestellung (vor Schließung des Pubs)
disbelief	Zweifel, Unglaube
Superintendent	Hauptkommissarin
investigation	Ermittlung
elderly	ältere(r, s), älterlich

"Brian Buckley?" Chief Inspector Daniel Bowles shook his head in **disbelief** at his boss, **Superintendent** Abigail Collins.

The two members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, also known as PSNI, were standing in a corner of the Great Hall. From here, they could see all the guests at the Lord Mayor's reception.

"You mean you are leaving me here alone because 'Buckles' thinks he's discovered something that could help our **investigation** into industrial espionage?"

Abigail Collins could understand that Bowles was sceptical. He was a new member of the small team of PSNI officers who knew that Brian Buckley was more than an **elderly** pub owner. Brian worked

undercover for the United Kingdom's Security Service. Based in London, the agency was also known as MI5. ⁱ Its responsibilities included investigating terrorism, espionage and economic crimes in the United Kingdom.

MI5 ist die Abkürzung von **Military Intelligence, Section Five**. Die Aufgabe des Inlandsgeheimdienstes ist der Schutz der Demokratie.

"Look, Bowles. I don't have much time left before I need to go and meet Brian. Just remember, for many years he gave us lots of **valuable** information."

"Well, he hasn't been much help lately." Bowles still wasn't **convinced**. "How many details did he tell you on the phone?"

"He didn't say much, just that he had 'something big' and that I should meet him at the pub around 11:30 tonight. That means I need to be on my way. Meanwhile, you keep an eye on things here." Bowles looked around at the large number of people still at the reception. He saw the Lord Mayor's attractive assistant Tamsin O'Reilly talking with one of the Chinese guests.

"Bowles! That wasn't what I meant by 'keeping an eye on things'!"

"Certainly not, Superintendent. And I wasn't..."

"Yes, you were, but never mind. Just think about why you're here, will you?"

valuable	wertvoll
convinced	überzeugt
lad	Bursche, Junge

Brian didn't have time to think about how the mysterious Chinese man knew his code name "Buckles". Right now, he had more important things on his mind. He took a deep breath to calm himself and rang the bell on the bar that signalled last orders.

His regulars weren't pleased to hear the sound. And Brian's next words didn't make them any happier.

"Drink up, **lads**. I'm closing down a bit earlier tonight."

Brian ignored their protests and watched them **down their drinks**. Then he followed them to the door and wished them all a good

night. Luckily, they were all quite **tipsy** and didn't notice that the Chinese man wasn't with them.

Brian took the sign on the door and turned it over to the "sorry, we're closed" side. But he remembered to hang it **at an angle**. He could hear the stranger breathing heavily be-

hind him. Then he heard the gun click. Time was running out and Brian knew he had only one chance. Suddenly, he kicked back with his left foot while **whirling around** on his right one. His foot landed directly in the man's stomach and Brian tried to get control of the gun. He was too late. The man **pulled the trigger** and Brian felt the bullet fly past his head. Brian **tackled** the man and finally got his hand on the gun. Then another shot rang out, and then another.



↙ to down
drinks

Getränke hinunter-
kippen

tipsy

beschwipst

at an angle

schief

to whirl around

sich schnell drehen

to pull the trigger

den Abzug betäti-
gen, abdrücken

to tackle

angreifen

Exercise 3: Questions. Ergänzen Sie das richtige Fragewort!

1. _____ was wearing a blue, silk dress?
2. _____ were Abigail and Bowles standing?
3. _____ did Brian tell Abigail?
4. _____ did Brian place the sign on the door?