



A Long Shot

The news of Tamsin O'Reilly's death shocked the visitors from Hefei. They still hadn't **got over** the report about Chung Ming, and now this! Two murder victims! And both of them had been at the reception last night! The visitors had lots to discuss as they waited for their tour of Stevens Engineering to begin. It should have started half an hour ago. Ms Zheng was supposed to show them around the company, but she hadn't arrived yet.

That gave the guests even more to talk about. One of them, Mr Liu, was especially worried. He wanted to ask her boss if she had **called in sick**. But then Arthur Stevens began speaking to the group.

"Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention please!"

The visitors all politely stopped talking and listened to the company owner's words.

"I know you are all sad and sorry about the horrible deaths of Ms O'Reilly and Mr Chung. But I can **assure you**, our Police Service is working very hard to solve the crimes. Now, if you will come with me, we'll begin our tour. The first stop is at the security desk."

Here, each guest had to put their bags, coats and other personal items in special **lockers**. Mr Stevens explained quickly that they couldn't take any cameras or mobiles inside the building's secure areas.

to get over sth.

mit etw. fertig werden, über etw. hinwegkommen

to call in sick

sich krankmelden

to assure sb. (of sth.)

jdm. etw. zusichern

locker

Spind, Schließfach

"These days, we have to be very careful. As you all know, business in Belfast has grown enormously in the past years. But unfortunately it has also made us a **target** for industrial crimes."

"What kind of crimes?" one of the guests asked him.

"Well, um..."

Arthur Stevens wasn't quite sure how to answer tactfully.

"I mean, for example, stealing plans for new products or lists of customer contacts and then selling them to the **competition**." None of the guests seemed **offended**, so Mr Stevens continued.

Exercise 11: Adjective or adverb? Ergänzen Sie die Sätze mit der richtigen Form der angegebenen Begriffe!

true slight serious loud possible secret

"That's why security is a top priority and we take it very

1. . Here at Stevens Engineering,

we are doing everything 2. to keep

our business secrets exactly that - 3.

."

Most of the guests smiled 4. . And

several of them even clapped their hands 5.

. But two of them knew very well that the last

sentence just was not 6. .

It can't be true, Abigail thought as she finished buttoning her blouse. She was still at headquarters. There hadn't been time to go home yet. Luckily, she always kept clean clothes in the office. She felt much better now that she had on a fresh uniform. She quickly combed her short brown hair and then sat down in front of her computer.



**standard
(operating)
procedure**

übliches Vor-
gehen

re:

AW: (E-Mail)

to decipher

entschlüsseln

puzzling

verwirrend

After she had switched it on, her thoughts turned back to the case. No, she didn't believe it. Brian Buckley would never, ever join the bad guys. Cooper must be crazy to think such a thing. Still, it was very strange that Brian had not tried to contact her. That was **standard**

operating procedure in the world of spies. Brian knew that. So why was he breaking this important rule? Abigail hoped he had a very good reason. She didn't want to think about the alternatives. Maybe Brian was hurt – or dead and couldn't contact her.

The computer was online now and Abigail checked her mails. She was looking for a special name. Brian was not a big internet user. He didn't trust it. He liked to use old-fashioned ways of communication. But Abigail had made him promise to use email in case of an emergency. Together they had worked out a simple code. And bingo! There it was, a message from "Mary". The "re:" line said "thank you for the flowers".

Abigail was so happy to see it that she almost laughed out loud. "Mary" was the code word Brian used to inform Abigail that he was alive and okay. The flowers part meant Brian needed to see her. She opened the mail and read the short message. It was also written in code, but Abigail was quickly able to **decipher** the message. Brian wanted to meet her at 1:00 p.m. in the Crown Liquor Saloon. She should come alone and not tell anyone else that he had contacted her.

Abigail looked at her watch. She still had a couple of hours left before the meeting. She wondered why Brian didn't want anyone else to know about it. She leaned back in her chair and put her feet on the desk. Slowly she began going over the facts in this **puzzling** case once more.

Exercise 12: Fill in the blanks. Vervollständigen Sie die Definitionen mit Vokabeln aus dem Text!

1. Something that is very important has top _____.
2. If you say something rude or personal to someone, they could be _____.
3. If you have lots of options, you have many _____.
4. If you believe in someone, you _____ them.

Months ago, her team had started looking into industrial espionage in Belfast. Luckily, the Lord Mayor and the City Council were helping with the investigation. After all, it was costing the city a lot of money. But Abigail's team wasn't very interested in who was buying business secrets. They were looking for the "insiders". Industrial espionage couldn't be successful without them. Typically, these people were company employees, and they sold the secrets they stole to a competing business. In these days of globalization, the

buyers could be anywhere. So far, the investigation had been a **dead end**. But maybe now Brian was about to give her the missing piece that could solve the case. But why did he want to meet at the Crown? Wasn't that where...?

"Where did you say we are having lunch?" Mr Wu asked the woman standing next to him in front of the lockers. The tour of Stevens' Engineering had been very interesting indeed. But now, Mr Wu was hungry. He was also **impatient**. There was still no sign of Ms Zheng. And he was very

dead end
honoured



Sackgasse
geehrt

worried about the fact that Tamsin O'Reilly was dead, too. How was he going to get the information now?

"Good afternoon, everyone. I'm terribly sorry I'm late."

Zheng Cai's sudden appearance surprised everyone.

"Why Cai, where have you been? I was starting to think something had happened to you. It's not like you to be late."

"I really am very sorry, Mr Stevens. I'll, um, explain later," she told him and looked around at the Chinese visitors.

Arthur Stevens understood that Cai didn't want to discuss the issue in front of the **honoured** guests.

"Well, it's lovely, just lovely that you are here now to go with us for lunch at the Crown Liquor Saloon."

"Yes it is, isn't it? The Crown is one of Northern Ireland's most famous pubs. I love it there!" Cai smiled happily at the visitors. "I'm certain you are going to enjoy it, too. Shall we go?"

The group members all finished getting their things out of the lockers. Then they went outside to the waiting taxis. Mr Wu made sure to get inside the same one as Zheng Cai. He wasn't sure what was going on, but he was going to keep a close eye on her. For a couple of seconds, they were alone in the back of the taxi.

"Ms Zheng, have we still got a deal?" Mr Wu whispered.

"Of course we have, Mr Wu." Cai's voice shook a little.

"The **unfortunate** Ms O'Reilly told me you were causing problems. In fact, she said you..."

The taxi door suddenly opened. It was Mr Liu.

"Oh fine, there's still a free seat for me," he said and smiled kindly at Cai. "I'm very glad to see you looking so well, Ms Zheng."

unfortunate

to stand out

exterior

splendid

stake-out

hier: bedauernd
enswert

sich abheben

Außenseite

großartig,
prächtig

Observierung

"It's nice to see you again, too, Mr Liu."

Then the taxi began the drive across the city to the beautiful, historic pub in Great Victoria Street.

The entrance to the Crown was across the street from the Great Northern Mall. That's where Brian Buckley was

standing. It was a very busy place. The Europa Bus Centre was also nearby. Brian had on comfortable travelling clothes and was carrying a small overnight bag. Nothing about the way he looked made him **stand out** from the other people around.

Exercise 13: Choose the correct alternative. Lesen Sie weiter und unterstreichen Sie die richtige Variante!

He 1. **had** / **was having** a Belfast guide book open in his hand, but he 2. **didn't read** / **wasn't reading** it. Brian 3. **looked** / **was looking** at the colourful **exterior** of the Crown. But it wasn't the **splendid** architecture he 4. **admired** / **was admiring**. For the first time in years, Brian 5. **ran** / **was running** a **stake-out**.

It was just like back in the old days. The trick was to **take in** every detail and to make sure that nobody noticed you doing it. To be honest, ¹ Brian really didn't miss that part of spying. In fact, he was starting



To be honest bedeutet hier „ehrlich gesagt“ und wird im umgangssprachlichen Englisch sehr häufig benutzt.

to think that he was getting too old for the spy business. Maybe he should think about **retirement**. Just then he **spotted** a woman coming up to the Crown's entrance. It was Abigail, and

she seemed to be alone. He watched her go through the pub's doors, but he didn't follow her. He was waiting for another familiar face to turn up. And just two minutes later, it did. But it wasn't the person Brian had thought would follow Abigail to the Crown. Brian was very disappointed and sad to see who was trying to look through the Crown's front window. But he couldn't feel bad about it now. It was time to **take his long shot**. Hopefully, Abigail and Cai would both do their part.

Abigail went inside the Crown and looked around for Brian. She didn't see him. A waiter came up to her immediately.

"Excuse me, **ma'am**. Are you Superintendent Collins?"

Abigail tried not to show her surprise.

"This is for you, Superintendent. I'm to tell you it's from Mary."

The waiter handed her an envelope.

Then he told her to please have a seat in one of the Crown's ten wooden **booths**. These were called snugs.

They were a special feature in many old pubs. Originally, the snugs were used by people who wanted to have a drink in private. It was the perfect place for a secret meeting. After the waiter left, Abigail opened and read the message that was really from Brian.

It took her breath away.

to take in



aufnehmen;
begreifen

retirement

Ruhestand

to spot sb.

jmd. sehen,
erspähen

↙ to take a
long shot

etw. Gewagtes
versuchen

ma'am
(madam)

hier: gnädige
Frau

booth

hier: Separee