

Lights, Camera, Murder!

Alison Romer

1 The Rose Diamond

4.16 a.m. The city of Manchester is quiet. The sky is dark, the streets are empty and people are asleep. But Lisa Brown is not asleep. She is driving her car. She is leaving Manchester early because of her job. It is a very long drive. She has a new red car and a new purple **suitcase**. It is very exciting. She travels a lot and meets **famous** people. It is her dream job. Lisa turns on the radio. There is a **traffic report**.

suitcase	Koffer
famous	berühmt, bekannt
traffic report	Verkehrsmeldung
accident	Unfall
delay	Verspätung
expected	erwartet
suddenly	plötzlich
towards	in Richtung, auf etw. zu
brake	Bremse

"**Accident** on the M60 motorway," says the reporter. "**Delays expected**."

Oh, no, she thinks. I will be late!

Suddenly, there is another car on the right. It is coming **towards** her very fast. It's going to crash! Lisa puts her foot on the **brake**. But it's too late.

4.26 a.m. Sirens.

The black car drives up the hill. The driver is a chauffeur. In the back of the car is a woman.

At the top of the hill, the woman says, "Stop the car."

The chauffeur stops and the woman gets out. She stands at

the top of the hill. *What a beautiful **view***, she thinks.

She can see the Yorkshire coast ¹ with its **cliffs** and beaches. At the bottom of the hill there is a village. It is called Cuff Bay. It is full of pretty little houses and there is a small **bay**. She can see some fishing boats in the water. The woman smells the fresh sea air. Then she hears another car stop behind her.

Two television cameramen get out of the car. They point the camera at the woman.

"Miss Wallis! Olivia! Can we have an interview?" they **shout**. They run towards her. "Now you are home again, in England, how does that feel? Are you **excited about** the film?"

Olivia does not answer. She gets back into her car.

"Quick," she says to the chauffeur. "Drive on!" Her car goes fast, down into the village.

The television men put down the camera. They look **annoyed**.

"She thinks she is too good for us," says one man.

"She's a diva," says the other man. "Nobody likes her. She's a sad old **has-been**."

Olivia Wallis is a famous **actress**. She has red hair and wears red lipstick. Her clothes are expensive and her shoes are **even more** expensive. But the most

view	hier: Ausblick
cliff	Klippe
bay	Bucht
to shout	rufen
to be excited about sth.	sich auf etw. freuen
annoyed	genervt, verärgert
↪ a has-been	ein Star, dessen Ruhm und Glanzzeit vorbei ist
actress	Schauspieler-in
even more	noch (hier: teurer)

Yorkshire ist die größte Grafschaft in Großbritannien. Sie liegt im Nordwesten Englands und ist berühmt für ihre beeindruckende Küste und gespenstischen Moore.



expensive thing is her **necklace**. It's made of one large diamond. The jewel looks pink. That is why it's called the Rose Diamond. It's very old and very famous. It has a long history. In the past, it **belonged to** a French princess. Now, it belongs to Olivia. She never takes the necklace off, **except** when she is in bed. Or when she is making a film.

necklace	Halskette
to belong to sb.	jmd. gehören
except	außer

Exercise 1: Translation. Übersetzen Sie die Sätze ins Deutsche!

1. It is her dream job.

2. The traffic report says delays are expected.

3. How does it feel to be home again?

4. What a beautiful view!

5. Nobody likes her.

6. There is a village at the bottom of the hill.

Twenty minutes later, the chauffeured car **pulls up** outside a hotel called The Sands. It's small but elegant, and very expensive. A tall, thin man is waiting. He opens the car door and Olivia gets out.

"Hello, Anthony," Olivia says. Anthony Gilbert is Olivia's assistant. He organizes everything for her. "Good morning, Miss Wallis," he says. "It's all ready for you. The champagne is on ice." "Good," Olivia says. She walks into the hotel. Anthony gets her bags out of the car. They get into the **lift**. "The director will meet us downstairs at 4 p.m. **!**," says Anthony. "No," Olivia **replies**. "I'm very tired. **Cancel** it. Ask him to meet me in the morning."

to pull up	<i>hier:</i> anhalten
lift	Fahstuhl
to reply	(be)antworten
to cancel	absagen
to reschedule	verlegen, neu planen
strange	seltsam, merkwürdig
failing	<i>hier:</i> scheitern



Im Englischen verwendet man bei der Uhrzeit meistens das 12-Stunden-System. Um Verwechslungen vorzubeugen, ergänzt man für Vormittag **a.m.** (ante meridiem, Latein) und für Nachmittag **p.m.** (post meridiem), oder man sagt **in the morning / afternoon / evening / at night**. Im gesprochenen Englisch würde man für 3 a.m. / p.m. z.B. eher **three o'clock** (in the morning / afternoon) sagen.

"Yes, Miss Wallis," says Anthony. "I'll call him and **reschedule**." Olivia lives in America, in Hollywood. She was born in Yorkshire. She moved to America when she was twenty-two years old. *It's **strange** to be back in England*, she thinks. The fresh air and pretty villages are very different from Los Angeles. But she is not happy. Her career in Hollywood is **failing**.

She does not get big roles now. Hollywood loves young actresses, but Olivia is forty-seven. She wants to act in blockbuster films. But these days she only acts in television series. She is in Cuff Bay to make a film for English TV. It is an adaptation of a famous English **novel**, *The Moonstone* by Wilkie Collinsⁱ. Olivia is playing the part of the **heroine**'s mother. In the past, she was the heroine. Now, *I'm just the heroine's mother*, she thinks.

novel	Roman
heroine	Heldin

Exercise 2: Pronouns. Ersetzen Sie die unterstrichenen Wörter mit den passenden Pronomen!

1. Anthony organizes everything for Olivia.

He organizes everything for her.

2. Olivia tells Anthony to cancel the meeting.

3. Anthony and Olivia want to reschedule the meeting.

4. Anthony gets her bags and takes the bags to Olivia's room.

5. She thinks she is too good for you and me. Nobody likes Olivia Wallis.

Later that night, Olivia is in bed. She is asleep. The diamond necklace is in a special **jewellery** box. She always keeps it on her bedside table. Suddenly, her mobile rings. She wakes up. She puts her glasses on and looks at her mobile phone. The screen says '**unknown**'. Who can it be? It's just after midnight. She answers it.

"Hello?" she says.

"Olivia?" says a man's voice.

"Yes, this is Olivia Wallis. Who is this?"

"It's George," the voice says. "Your husband."

"My ex-husband," Olivia says. "I have nothing to say to you."

"Don't say that," the man says. "I know, it's a long time..."

"Thirty years."

"Twenty-six, actually."

"What do you want?" asks Olivia.

"You're back in England," says the man. "I want to say hello."

"It's the middle of the night!"

"I thought you were busy, so I waited to call."

Olivia sighs. "Well, you called. Is that all?"

"No," says her ex-husband. "I think it would be nice to meet up. We could talk about old times."

"That doesn't sound nice at all. Now, can I go back to sleep?"

"Of course," he says. "I just thought we could talk about the past."

"The past is gone," Olivia says. "Goodnight."

Before George can say anything else, she presses 'end' on her mobile. Then there is only **silence**.

jewellery	Schmuck
unknown	unbekannt
silence	Stille



Wilkie Collins (1824-1889) gilt als der Erfinder des englischen Detektivromans. *The Moonstone* wurde 1868 veröffentlicht und ist neben *The Woman in White* (1859/60) eines seiner berühmtesten Werke.