

Evidence Round

It had started off like any typical day. Holmes suddenly stood up from his chair that afternoon and announced that we would be making a quick foray outside, but should be back by tea-time. Inspector Lestrade picked us up in a hansom cab, and we made a short trip to South London to seek out one of his informants. Holmes has recently been hot on the heels of Professor Moriarty's criminal ring, so it was no surprise to see Lestrade being involved.

We made haste on the way back as it was getting close to tea time. Dr Nigel Black, a prominent anthropologist, had arranged for a consultation with Holmes today. Lestrade chose to tag along, as he was afraid the matter would be of concern to Scotland Yard too. When we returned to 221B Baker Street, our landlady Mrs Hudson had already showed Dr Black in to wait inside Holmes' study. But when we entered the study, we were shocked to discover that Dr Black had already died of an unknown cause in Holmes' chair.

Although Dr Black had apparently expired peacefully while seated in the chair facing the window and there were no signs of a struggle in the room, Holmes' keen observational skills and deductive senses were quickly at work.

"I suspect foul play here. It would be too much of a coincidence for Dr Black to die right here, just while we were away. Probabilistic events seldom happen this way," said Holmes as he scanned the room with his eagle eyes.

"Do you think he was murdered?" The well-trained Lestrade instinctively checked the open study window first. But it is impossible for a cat burglar to scale to the second floor, and the tree outside is also just beyond any reasonable reach.

I did a preliminary examination of the body, but there were no visible external wounds. Neither were there any head trauma or neck lesions which would suggest a possible cause of death.

"I am certain it is murder!" Holmes exclaimed after a few minutes. "Watson, we will need to examine the evidence in the room in detail. This may take a few days. Lestrade, in the meantime, I trust you can round up the list of suspects for questioning. Ah, and there is the curious incident of the victim's dying moment..."

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That was a week ago. Since then, Holmes and I examined a piece of evidence we found in the study each day, which I will share the details of with you shortly. But just as I thought we were making progress into the investigation, Holmes mysteriously disappeared. I fear the fate of my friend and what could have happened to him in the midst of our investigations. I am grateful that your team of detectives have responded to my call to help solve this puzzling enigma. I hope you can help me make sense of the Evidence puzzles to figure out the murder weapon, and thereafter the Suspects puzzles to identify the killer's motive. I wish us good luck!