

**Title: 100 Zagadek Kryminalnych – 100 Crime
Riddles**

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Książki z serii "Reading for English Learners" przeznaczone są dla osób, które znają już dobrze język angielski, ale chcą doskonalić jego praktyczne zastosowanie, a także uczyć się nowych słów dzięki ciekawym tekstom napisanym stosunkowo prostym i powszechnie używanym językiem angielskim.

„100 Zagadek Kryminalnych” to krótkie opowiadania kryminalne, w których Czytelnik musi odgadnąć sprawcę lub okoliczności popełnienia przestępstwa.

Autor ma nadzieję, że te historie przypadną do gustu Czytelnikom i pomogą im pogłębić znajomość języka angielskiego.



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1. FALLING DOWN THE STAIRS

At 2:40 pm., police received a report that Mrs. Lucretia Harvest, the wife of a supermarket chain co-owner, had fallen down the stairs and killed herself. All that occurred in the luxurious Harvest Manor. Inspector Parker, who was assigned to lead the investigation [wyznaczony do prowadzenia śledztwa] and determine the cause of the accident, quickly arrived on the scene.

When the inspector arrived, he looked around the elegant hall of Harvest Manor. At the bottom of the impressive marble staircase lay the body of Mrs. Lucretia Harvest. The medical examiner was just finishing his examination, so the inspector could begin his investigation, but first he asked the doctor about the cause of death.

'You don't have to be Sherlock Holmes to determine that the deceased's death was caused by striking her head repeatedly [wielokrotne uderzenie] on the marble staircase, although I'll know the details after the autopsy,' the doctor replied.

'And what time did she die?' the inspector asked. 'The case is simple here, too, because the victim's luxurious gold watch stopped due to the impact [powodu uderzenia] at exactly 2:15 pm.,' the doctor replied.

The inspector thanked the doctor for the information, pulled out a magnifying glass [*wyciągnął lupę*], and began examining the stairs on which Mrs. Harvest had tumbled. Suddenly, he noticed something unusual: on the third step from the top, hidden in the shadow of the ornate balustrade, was glistening [*lśniła*] a thin layer of colourless, extremely slippery [*śliski*] floor wax. Someone, most likely deliberately [*celowo*], had applied it only in that one spot.

The inspector immediately summoned [*wezwał*] a police technician to thoroughly photograph both the spot and the entire staircase, and then summoned three members of the household who were in the house at the time for questioning.

The first to arrive was Mr. William Harvest, the victim's husband, who said:

'This is a terrible tragedy! At the time it happened, I was drinking tea in my downstairs study [*gabinecie na parterze*] and reading financial reports. At 2:30 pm., we were planning dinner, which our cook was preparing. Lucretia wanted to go down the stairs to the living room for dinner and apparently slipped and fell. Oh my God, that's terrible!'

'Did your wife have any problems before the accident?' asked the inspector.

'Lucretia was helping me run the business, and recently she

14. THE MURDER AT BLACKWOOD MANOR

The country estate of Blackwood Manor was shrouded in thick autumn fog [spowite gęstą, jesienną mgłą] when Inspector Parker arrived just after dawn. Police were called when the household members discovered the body of Lord Arthur Blackwood in the luxurious library, by the fireplace. The cause of death was poisoning; the smell of cyanide still lingered [nadal się utrzymywał] from the glass of expensive wine on the desk.

According to the household members, the lord entered the library at 10:00 pm., locked the massive oak door from the inside, and refused to let anyone in [nie wpuścił nikogo]. The only key to the door was in the deceased's trouser pocket. The windows were locked with metal bolts, undamaged from the inside [zamknięte na metalowe rygle, nieuszkodzone od wewnątrz].

After an initial examination, Inspector Parker quickly determined that the only suspects were the household members present at the estate that evening: Lady Eleanor; the lord's wife, Henry; the lord's younger brother; and Charles, the lord's faithful butler. Each had a motive and each claimed not to have seen the lord after 10:00 pm. The police also examined the bottle of wine in the drawing room from

which the glass had been poured; the alcohol was pure, with no trace of cyanide.

After listening to the police report and examining the crime scene, Inspector Parker began interviewing the three suspects. This is what they said:

Lady Eleanor said:

'My husband had his usual evening routine. After dinner, around 9:45 pm., I poured him some wine from the decanter [karafki] in the drawing room bar, into his favourite carved glass tumbler with the Blackwood coat of arms [z herbem Blackwoodów], which he always poured himself. Arthur then took the tumbler and went to the library to lock himself away and read his favourite books in peace, while I went to my bedroom upstairs. I didn't go into the library when he locked himself in, and besides, I had no reason to go there. The poison must have been in the bottle!'

Henry said:

'Arthur wouldn't lend me the money. I was going to talk to him about it today, but I'm not a murderer! I spent all of last night in the drawing room. I smoked cigarettes and watched television. I saw Arthur go to the library with a glass filled by Eleanor. I didn't even touch his alcohol, neither before nor after dinner. Perhaps the poison was already in the bottom of that particular glass, before Eleanor

poured it?'

Charles, the lord's butler, said:

'I was looking after the lord's comfort. Before 9:00 pm., as is my daily ritual, I thoroughly washed all the glasses in the drawing room, wiped them dry, and arranged them on the bar. Then I began cleaning the silver in the kitchen. The wine could have been poisoned by Lady Eleanor; after all, she was the one serving the alcohol!'

After questioning the three people, Inspector Parker entered the library and carefully examined the lord's body, the desk, and the unfortunate glass. After a moment, he smiled, approached the suspects, and pointed the culprit [sprawce].



Who poisoned Lord Arthur, and how did the inspector figure it out?

The solution is after the next riddle.

The solution to the riddle titled: "A Dressing Table":

First mistake; sitting at her dressing table, Mrs. Thraves would have seen the potential thief in the mirror.

Second mistake; if it had been Beatrice who had supposed-



80. MUNICH – THE SWAPPED IMAGE

That day Inspector Parker flew to Munich to conduct an investigation, on behalf of Interpol, into the mysterious theft of a Brueghel painting from the Pinakothek. The masterpiece by Pieter Bruegel the Elder*; "The Portrait of an Old Woman", disappeared [zniknął] from room No. VIII. The painting, painted on board, was brutally taken out of the baroque frame that was still hanging on the wall. Certainly none of the employees did it. Who could have done it and how?

At the airport, after leaving the gate, the inspector immediately looked at the screens that showed the ribbon number assigned to his flight number, then quickly went to the right one and took his suitcase in which, just in case, he packed things and clothes that could be useful for him in the next two weeks, because that was the period of his stay he planned in Munich. Polizeikommissar Roland Kruger, appointed by his superiors to assist the inspector in the investigation, was already waiting in the group which was greeting the travelers.

The gentlemen had never met in person before, but they

knew each other by sight [*z widzenia*], as they had already talked about the theft via police video links, so they found each other very quickly and greeted each other warmly, as there was a bond of liking between them already on video links.

'Hello, inspector,' Kruger said in a hushed voice [*ściszym głosem*] when he saw him walking with a distinctive green suitcase through Terminal 2 in Franz Josef Strauss Airport. The inspector had already informed him that he would be carrying such a green suitcase, a suitcase that had a long history but... that's a topic for another story.

Rain pounded against the windows of the black BMW as Kruger drove downtown to the hotel where the inspector had, of course, booked a room. And he, silent and still feeling the dampness [*wilgoć*] of the London morning in his bones [*w kościach*], watched the silhouettes of modern office buildings passing by outside the window.

'It wasn't an ordinary theft, inspector,' Kruger said, confidently [*pewną ręką*] driving the car towards the city centre. 'The alarm systems in the Old Pinakothek have gone digitally to sleep [*zostały uśpione cyfrowo*]. No signs of forced entry, no prints. Brueghel's "The Portrait of an Old Woman" simply disappeared from the frame between three and four in the morning. This is even more strange because the painting

Catherine Palace in Tsarskoye Selo. Looted [zrabowane] by the Nazis in 1941, it was lost forever at the end of World War II.

The masterpiece was designed by the Gdańsk architect Andrzej Schluster. After being transferred to Russia in 1716, the room was expanded and enriched. During World War II, it was taken by the Germans to Königsberg Castle, where it disappeared without a trace [zniknęła bez śladu]. For years, speculation persisted [trwały spekulacje] that it had been destroyed during Allied bombing raids or hidden in underground complexes. The search for the lost original continues, and new theories regularly point to potential locations in both Poland and Germany. (Source: Wikipedia)



87. WARSAW – SUSPICIOUS ART DEALERS

Immediately after getting off the train at Warsaw Central Station, the inspector walked to the nearby, beautiful new Museum of Contemporary Art. Commissioner Nowak from the Police Headquarters was already waiting for him. The men greeted each other and immediately got to work; they went down to the store room and soon found themselves

standing in front of a row of identical wooden crates. Commissioner Nowak nervously adjusted his tie.

'The situation is stalemate [patowa], inspector,' Nowak began.

'We have determined, based on surveillance footage, that three art dealers were interested in the paintings: Mr. Holzer from Berlin, Mr. Vuillon from Paris, and Ms. Hoffmann from Geneva. All three came to the "Women's Question" exhibition, posing as ordinary visitors [udając się zwykłych gości]. Frida Kahlo's painting "Lady in White" has disappeared, even though the seals on the crates are intact [choć pomybby na skrzyniach są nienaruszone].

We also have a suspect; a certain Zawadzki, a packer, who, of course, denies the allegations [zaprzecza oskarżeniom] against him and claims he performed his work according to procedures. However, inspector, I'm certain that he acted on behalf of one of these dealers and was simply bribed [został po prostu przekupiony] with a large sum of money. The question is which of these dealers is the principal [tu: mocodawcą], because we don't have any evidence yet.

Of course, we conducted a personal search of these three persons, and this is what we found in their briefcases...'

Here, Nowak pulled out a notebook and read to the inspector: