

Chapter One

Are you a detective?

William looked up at the young man who'd asked the question.

No I'm the deputy manager of the Midland bank ^{in Kent} ~~Shrewsbury~~. Then you'll be able to tell me what the exchange rate ~~is~~ ^{between} the dollar and the pound, ~~what~~ ^{what} the current market opened this morning.

William tried to remember how much he'd got when he changed a hundred pounds for dollars ~~before~~ ^{before} he joined the ship yesterday afternoon, but he hesitated for too long. Three dollars and twenty one pence ~~for the~~ ^{for the} pound said the young man before he could reply. So ~~he~~ ^{he} wondered forgive me for asking. Why aren't you willing to ^{even} admit you're a detective?

on the table in front of him. William put down the book ~~the book~~ ^{the book} he was reading and took a closer look at the young ~~man~~ ^{American}. Are you able to keep a secret? he asked.

Yes sir, I am.

Then do sit down said William, ~~glancing at~~ ^{pointing to} the seat opposite him. He waited for the young man to settle before he said. I'm on holiday, and I promised my wife that for the next two weeks I wouldn't tell anyone I was a detective, because it's always ~~followed~~ ^{followed} by a dozen questions, ~~some~~ ^{some} of which I'm willing to answer.

But why a banker as your lover? asked the young man.

My wife ~~and~~ ^{and} had a long discussion before we settled on a banker. I do live in Shrewsbury, ^{and} the deputy manager takes care of my affairs, so I thought I'd get away with it for a couple of weeks.

What else was on the short list?

Estate agent, car salesman and funeral director.

The young man laughed. So what one would you have chosen asked William trying to regain the initiative.

Hitman. That way no one would have bothered me for the ~~entire~~ ~~voyage~~ rest of the voyage.

But I would have known that was a cover immediately said William, because no hitman would have asked me if I was detective. So what do you do?

I'm in my sophomore year at Chase, a prep school in New Hampshire.

And do you know what you want to do when you leave school.

I shall go to Harvard, and study history, before going onto law school.

and in notime a partner when you'll join a practice and become a lawyer.

No sir, I want to be a law man, so after ~~that~~ ^{PRO} I ~~shall~~ ^{small} join the F.B.I.

You seem to already have your career well mapped out, for one so young. The young man frowned, clearly offended, so William quickly added the too. I knew I wanted to join ~~the~~ ^{PRO} ~~the~~ ~~the~~ when I was eight years old.

What took you so long?

William smiled, leaned forward, ~~and~~ thrust out his hand and said Detective Inspector William Warwick.

James Buchanan replied the young man shaking William's hand ^{outstretched} firmly.

Forgive a silly question said William. But what makes you so sure they will offer you a place at Harvard, when you can't be more than...

Sixteen said James I've already taken my sets and scored ~~so~~ which is the equivalent of getting there 5 levels, if I was at 100. And I presume you made it to ~~the~~ ^{so} ~~the~~ ^{thru} Chief Inspector.

Yes admitted William, trying to get onto the boat

you must have also considered
foot. But if you're that bright, ~~have you given any~~
~~thought about~~ becoming a lawyer, or even going into
politics.

There are far too many lawyers in America said
James, and most of them ~~seem to be~~ ^{end up} chasing ambulances
And politics?

I wouldn't be good at suffering fools gladly, and I
don't want to spend the rest of my life at the whim of the
electorate, or allowing some group to ~~dictate my opinions~~ ^{dictate my opinions}.

Whereas if you were to become the Director of the FBI,
I would ~~be~~ my own master, answering only to the
President, and I wouldn't always let them know what I
was up to.

William laughed

And you sir said James, throwing another curved ball
Are you destined to become the Commissioner of the
Metropolitan Police.

William was silenced once again.

Clearly you think so said James. So may I ask you
another question.

I can't imagine what would stop you.

What do you consider are the ~~greatest~~ ~~most~~ most
~~important~~ ^{important} ~~qualities~~ ^{qualities} if you want
~~to be a~~ ^{to be a} ~~first class~~ ^{first class} detective.

Respect for the law, integrity, and a willingness to
admit you might be wrong occasionally.

That goes without saying sir, Perhaps I should have
said talents not qualities.

~~Observation~~ ^{Observation} said the ability to observe said
~~with~~ ^{with} ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~important~~ ^{important} ~~being~~ ^{being} ~~able~~ ^{able} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~use~~ ^{use} ~~it~~ ^{it}
to ~~your advantage~~ ^{take advantage} of those observations.

I'm not sure I fully understand said the young
man.

That must be a trick said William immediately

regretting his words, although the young man only smiled. Close your eyes said William. Describe me.

Your thirty, thirty five at most, ~~and~~ a shade over six foot, fair haired, blue eyes around 150 lbs, fit, but not as fit as you used to be, and you've suffered a serious shoulder injury early in your career. What makes you so sure about the injury.

Your shirt is undone, and when you lean forward to shake ~~my~~ hands, I saw a faded scar, below your left shoulder, that didn't look like a sports injury.

William thought about Louisa's red gales, who saved his life, but moved quickly on. ~~PTO~~ ~~and William~~

And my clothes, what do they tell you?

Now I confess said James, that is ^{brilliant} ~~amazing~~ but would take several questions to solve, and then ~~only~~ only if you told the truth. Why?

& your clothes are not expensive, probably purchased at a store, and yet you're matching first class.

And what do you deduce from that?

You must have a rich wife, or you're on a special assignment.

Neither said William. That's where observation ends, and deduction begins, but you did well.

The young man opened his eyes and smiled. My turn I think. William ^{looked surprised for a moment but then} closed his eyes.

Describe me

Bright, self assured, but insecure.

Insecure repeated the young man. still you may be top of the class, but your desperate to impress.

What am I wearing?

A white cotton shirt, buttoned down, blue shorts, white socks, and Puma gym shoes, though you

reaching it even with a gym.

How can you be sure of that.

Although you're sitting up straight, your feet were splayed when you walked toward me, if you were an athlete, they would be in a straight line, if you doubt me, check the footprints of an Olympic runner on a cinder track.

Any dw buying marks

You have a tiny birthmark, just below your left ear, which you try to disguise with make up. Describe the picture on the wall behind me.

Too easy said William, try again.

The picture behind you.

is a black and white photo of the 21 Arden
sailing out of New York harbor on May 23 1967,
while being accompanied by a ^{which} ~~and the~~ ~~destroying~~ ~~torpedo~~ ~~boat~~ ~~which~~ ~~is~~ ~~it~~ ~~must~~ ~~be~~
is match voyage.

How tall am I?

You're an inch shorter than me, but you'll end up an inch taller. You weigh around 140lbs, and you haven't started to shave.

How many people have passed us while your eyes have been closed.

One mother with two children, one of them called Bobbie, both american, one officer.

How do you know he was an official?

A deck hand putting me the other way called him out, and an elderly ~~gent~~ gentleman,

How can you be sure he was old.

He was carrying a walking stick, and it was some time, before the sound of a regular tap tap faded.

im not blind said James, as William opened

his eyes.

Far from it said William, ~~but~~ now it's my turn to ask you some questions.

A good detective, should always rely on facts and never make an assumption. So I have to ask ^{you} if the chairman of the Pilgrim Line ^{Fraser Sullivan is} your grandfather.

Yes and my father Andrew is deputy ^{of the company} chairman.

And no doubt, they both assume, that given time, you will become chairman.

I've already made it clear that just what's going to happen.

But from all I know of your grandfather, he ~~wasn't~~ ~~have given up yet~~. He's not someone who gives in easily.

But he sometimes forgets, we come from the same stock.

I had the same problem with my father admitted William. He's a criminal barrister, a Q.C. and he always assumed, I'd follow him in chambers and join in at ~~the bar~~ ~~as a lawyer~~ despite me telling him from the age of eight, that I wanted to work up criminal, not be paid extravagant fees to keep them out of jail. (PTD)

My grandfather is worse, he even threatened to cut me out of his will ~~but~~ ^{PTD} he'll never be allowed to do that as long as my grandmother alive, ~~and~~ William chuckled.

Would it be too much of an imposition Sir, to ask if I could steal an hour ~~a day~~ of your time a day, during the voyage to New York.

That would be fine, and about now, ^{would suit me} when my wife's at her Pilate club. But ^{only} with the proviso that should you ever meet her, you won't tell her what we've been talking about.

Oscar Wilde was right, we are divided
by a common language.

William raised an eyebrow.

For you & the bar, means wine and lawyers
for an American it means what you call a pub,

^{William} A good criminal can always change the subject,
^{said} A good detective will not lose the thread, your
grandfather attitude to you not wanting to be
chairman of the company.

leaving if I don't join the company after
leaving Harvard.

And what have you been talking about asked Betty as she appeared by their side.

James leapt up. The price of gold on ~~the~~ ^{the} market seemed looking earnest.

Then you will have quickly discovered it a subject on which my husband knows nothing.

I was about to tell you James said William, that my wife is far braver than I am, which is why she's the deputy director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, and in a more delicate case inspector ~~PT~~ should you mention the met to her, she'll assume you're talking about one of the greatest museums on earth, rather than one of the greatest police forces on earth.

I was so glad you managed to get the Vermeer back said James, turning to take ~~her~~ ^{the} ~~man~~ ^{man}.

only to lose it again she said with some feeling. How did you know that said William. Once again on the back foot.

I read the Spectator and New Statesman every week ~~PT~~ and then try to make up my own mind.

Of course you do said William said James

I look forward to seeing you again sir, because I'll be fascinated to hear if your bank miles Penelope is still alive.

* * *

* * *

How many murders were there in London last year asked Commander Hawkey.

One hundred and thirty five ~~said~~ ^{replied} Detective Inspector Adair.

And how many of those were domestic?

Twenty three said Julie.

But how many of those were solved as Roycroft asked the Hawk.

Twenty two of the twenty three replied Julie. Most of them were either caught on the scene of the crime, or we'd arrested them within twenty-four hours.

Twenty four hours repeated the Commander. That's the period of time in which most murders are solved. Forty eight at the most. Every hour after that ^{one} ~~the~~ becomes more and more difficult to nail the culprit, even when you know who the murderer is. However that still leaves us with one hundred and twelve murders that were not domestic, and how many of those ~~are~~ solved as Roycroft ~~asked~~ ended up with convictions as Rankin said.

Rebecca didn't need to open the file ~~it~~ on the table in front of her, to answer ~~the~~ question.

One hundred and two sir.

~~How many of those were solved, ended up with convictions.~~

~~What do we know about~~ ^{intel do we have for} the other eleven cases demanded the Commander.

In seven of them ~~we~~, we know who the murderer ~~is~~ is, and ongoing investigations are still in progress.

If ~~there~~ ^{we} know who committed the murders, why haven't been more arrests.

'A wall of silence' said Rebecca. Gang warfare, ~~murders~~, the result of long standing quarrels over disputed territories, drugs, or both. It would be

any number of people involved, but no one will come forward, for fear ^{of reprisals and} ~~that~~ they will be ^{the} next in line.

which still leaves us with four unsolved murders, committed by someone who now thinks they've got away with it, ^{where} ~~and~~ it's our responsibility to make sure they haven't. If there's one simple thing that keeps the murder rate down, it's ~~keeping~~ ^{separating} a conviction years after the crime has been committed. So our first task is to track ^{down} ~~those~~ four murderers, ~~and~~ and bring them to justice.

Commander Hawkeye handed separate files to each of his officers. When we meet again in a week's time, I'll expect a progress report, and if you think it's a competition, you'd be right.

And the fourth one said Paul looking at the file the commander had retained.

The toughest of the lot said the Hawk. The case had been cold for over a year, and we asked it for DCI Warwick ^{to handle} when he returns from his holiday in two weeks' ~~time~~ ^{time}, ~~then~~ meanwhile you'll all need backup to assist you. Draw up a shortlist, and you can leave the chief inspector to make the final selection when he returns. However, if you spot someone exceptional, let me know, because we still need someone to replace DC Bulgy, on the main team. Robberson bowed her head, still not having recovered from the loss of her close friend.

And just in case you thought you hadn't got enough to be getting on with. DCI Warwick is now wounded Miles Foulness is still alive, and I agree with him.

But I attended his funeral in Germany and ~~saw~~ witnessed the execution. said Julie.

Attended is the dog word said the Hawk, but who did you witness being executed is the question.

~~What's~~ What's changed your mind sir, because DCI Warburton also attended the funeral, Jackie remarked him.

A Raphael ~~that~~ ^{recently} came up for sale at Christie's, just before William and his wife left for their holiday. A rare painting, that had once been part of the Faulkner collection.

That may well be a clue said Paul, but it's hardly proof sir.

I would have agreed with you ^{Paul} ~~come~~ but the thing is if the buyer hadn't turned out to be, none other than Mr Booth Watson, Q.I., who was bidding on behalf of a client.

Who would well have been his wife argued Paul. I don't think so said Hanky. Christine Faulkner had never showed any interest in buying pictures, only selling them.

That still not beyond reasonable doubt said Paul. Until you add into the mixture, that my VLO has discovered, ~~that~~ the picture that came up for sale at Christie's was a copy and the original can still be seen in Faulkner's home in Northumbria, so Faulkner would have needed to take the copy off the market, for fear we might put two and two together.

Paul was about to come back when the commotion raised ~~an army~~ ^{an army} ~~of~~ ^{of} But for now I need you to concentrate on the job in hand, namely solving the mystery of the three ~~murders~~ ^{later} murders, and let Warburton worry about Miller Faulkner, because I suspect, that although he's on holiday little else will be on his mind.

* * *

We have the full English breakfast said Miel.

Any how about you sir asked me waker turning to
full booth waker, notebook open, pen popped.

Toast with marmalade, and a black coffee

of course sir said the water before he slumped away,
why did you want to see me ^{so urgently} ^{8:10} Lashed riled

There was news story in 'Art Weekly' that a printed
~~and~~ the pamphlet that recently came up for auction at
Christies, may have been a copy of the cartoon house
are designing it, claiming ~~it was~~^{the painting} purchased by a
well known collector. Unfortunate words, especially
it warms ~~us~~ we're to ~~see~~^{some cheap} feel article.

As unlikely I wrote last half way across the Atlantic,
enjoying a well earned holiday, before we return to
start with unbroken murders.

Not the best, ^{said B.W.} I want you out of the way ^{before} ~~by the~~
~~time~~ he gets back. Just ~~stay~~ ^{wait} low for a few weeks,
 until things settle down.

The timing couldn't be better. I've been reminded that I will have set out on my honeymoon, just before the signature chief inspector returns.

And some good news. We now got a fully paid up member ~~on~~ the Lowmber's inner Team, so we'll always be able to stay a yard ahead of them.

congratulations & I smile. You're worth every penny I pay you.

im glad you raised the subject of money ~~and~~ said
BW as a waiter placed a large plate of eggs, sausage,
beans, tomatoes, and mushrooms in front of Captain
Rupert Neville.

And don't forget the tomato sauce and milk!

END OF CHAPTER.