

Lesson 3

"Murder in a Country House"

Murder in a country house

June 22nd 1958 was Jeremy Travers' sixtieth birthday. He had dinner at his country house with his wife, Amanda, his daughter, Barbara, his business partner, Gordon, and his secretary, Claudia. Next morning when Amanda Travers went to her husband's bedroom she found him in bed...dead.



Jeremy



Amanda



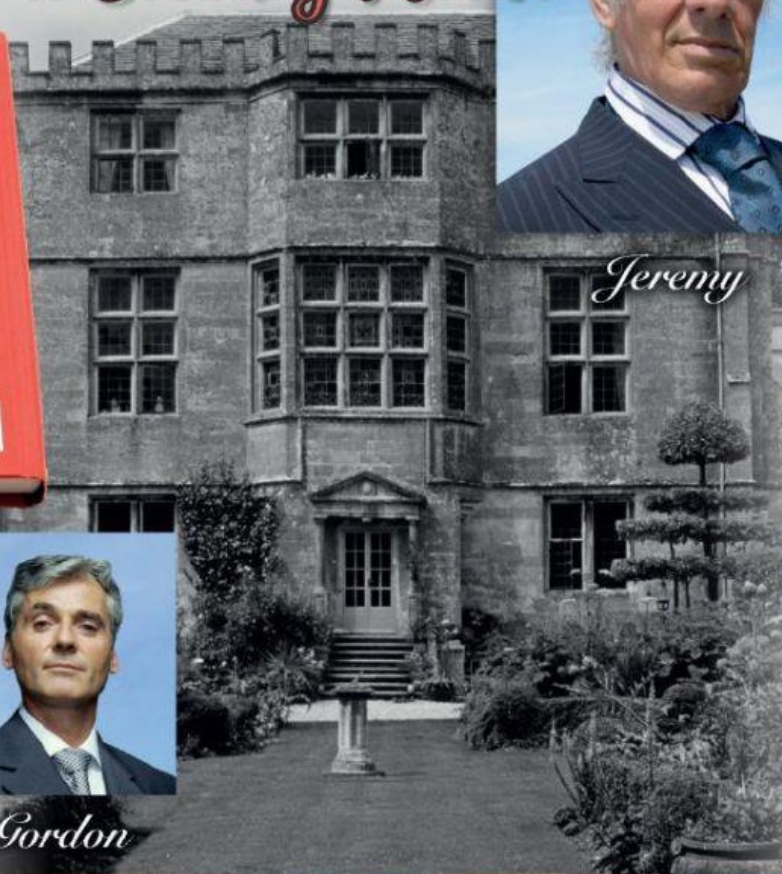
Claudia



Gordon



Barbara



Inspector Granger arrived at about 9.00. He ¹was a tall man with a big black moustache. Amanda, Barbara, Claudia, and Gordon ²were in the living room. The inspector ³came in.

'Mr Travers died between midnight last night and seven o'clock this morning,' he ⁴said. 'Somebody in this room killed him.' He looked at them one by one, but nobody ⁵spoke.

'Mrs Travers, I want to talk to you first. Come into the library with me, please.'

Amanda Travers followed the inspector into the library and they ⁶sat down.

'What did your husband do after dinner last night?'

'When we finished dinner Jeremy said he was tired and he ⁷went to bed.'

'Did you go to bed then?'

'No, I didn't. I went for a walk in the garden.'

'What time did you go to bed?'

'About quarter to twelve.'

'Was your husband asleep?'

'I don't know, inspector. We...we ⁸slept in separate rooms. But I ⁹saw that his door was closed.'

'Did you hear anything when you were in your room?'

'Yes, I ¹⁰heard Jeremy's bedroom door. It opened. I ¹¹thought it was Jeremy. Then it closed again. I ¹²read in bed for half an hour and then I went to sleep.'

'What time did you get up this morning?'

'I ¹³got up at about 7.15. I ¹⁴had breakfast and at 8.00 I ¹⁵took my husband a cup of tea.'

I ¹⁵found him in bed. He was...dead.'

'Tell me, Mrs Travers, did you love your husband?'

'Jeremy is...was a difficult man.'

'But did you love him, Mrs Travers?'

'No, inspector. I hated him.'