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CHAPTER FIVE

He slept heavily but uneasily, and he had unpleasant dreams. Then Mrs Dempster woke him as usual with a cup of tea, and he felt better. But his first **request** to her surprised the old servant very much. 'Mrs Dempster, while I'm out today, will you please dust or wash those pictures - particularly the third one from the fireplace. I want to see what they are.'

Again Moore spent most of the day studying happily in the park. On his way home he again visited Mrs Wood at the hotel. She had a **visitor** with her in her comfortable sitting-room.

'Sir,' said the landlady, 'this is Doctor Thornhill.'

As soon as she had introduced them, the doctor began to ask Moore a great many questions. 'I'm sure,' said Moore to himself, 'that the good doctor did not call here by accident.' He turned to Doctor Thornhill.

'Doctor, I'll gladly answer all your questions, if you'll just answer one of mine.'

The doctor seemed surprised, but he agreed at once.

'Did Mrs Wood ask you to come here and **advise** me?' asked Moore. The doctor looked surprised. Mrs Wood's face turned very red and she looked away. But the doctor was an honest, friendly man, and he answered quickly, 'She did, but she didn't want you to know. She's worried about you. She doesn't like you staying there all alone, and she thinks you study too hard and drink too much strong tea. She asked me to give you some good **advice**. I was once a student too, you know, so I know what I'm talking about.'

Moore smiled and held out his hand to Doctor Thornhill. 'I must thank you for your kindness - and you too, Mrs Wood. I promise to take no more strong tea, and I'll be in bed by one o'clock. There, will that please you both?'

'Very much,' said Doctor Thornhill. 'Now tell us all about that old house.'

Moore told them all about the events of the previous nights. When he told them how he had thrown the Bible, Mrs Wood gave a little scream. When Moore had finished his story, Doctor Thornhill looked very serious.

'The rat always ran up the rope of the alarm bell?' he asked.

'Always.'

'I suppose you know,' said the doctor, 'what the rope is?'

'No, I don't,' said Moore.

'It is the hangman's rope,' said the doctor. 'After the judge condemned someone to death, the **unfortunate** man was hanged with that rope.' Mrs Wood gave another scream. The doctor went to fetch her a glass of water. When he returned, he looked hard at Moore.

'Listen, young man,' he said. 'If anything happens to you tonight, don't **hesitate** to ring the alarm bell. I shall be working quite late tonight too, and I'll keep my ears open. Now don't forget!'

Moore laughed. 'I'm sure I shan't need to do that!' he said, and went home for his dinner.

'I don't like that young man's story,' said Doctor Thornhill after Moore had left. '**Perhaps** he imagined most of it. All the same, I'll listen tonight for the alarm bell. Perhaps we'll reach him in time to help him.'

Translate the words into your language.

request = _____

unfortunate = _____

visitor = _____

hesitate = _____

advise = _____

perhaps = _____

advice = _____

Answer the questions in English.

1. What did Moore want Mrs Dempster to do that morning? _____

2. Where did Moore go after studying in the park?

3. Who was the visitor?

4. What did Moore ask the visitor?

5. How did Mrs Wood respond to Moore's question?

6. Why did Mrs Wood want the doctor to give Moore advice?

7. What did Moore promise Mrs Wood and the doctor?

8. What did Mrs Wood and the doctor want to know from Moore?

9. What was so special about the rope of the alarm?

10. What did the doctor promise he'd do that night?

Write your prediction. What will happen next? Who do you think this enormous rat is that keeps appearing?

