

# The Moneybags's Murder – part 1

Complete the blanks, using **might have** or **could have** (= IT'S POSSIBLE) and **couldn't have** (IT'S NOT POSSIBLE):

'Well, he 1. *might have committed* suicide, 2. *mightn't* he?

'No, the detective says he 3. \_\_\_\_\_ done that, because he had no reason.'

'But he 4. \_\_\_\_\_ had money problems that nobody else knew of.'

'Yes, I suppose he 5. \_\_\_\_\_, but Inspector North is sure he was murdered.'

'Who are the suspects, then?'

'Well, there were six other people in Moneybags Hall that evening, and they all have an alibi for the time of the murder. But any of them 6. \_\_\_\_\_ committed the crime, because they all had a motive!'

'Lady Moneybags 7. \_\_\_\_\_ killed him, because she was upstairs. Jenkins was in the hall, so it 8. \_\_\_\_\_ been him, 9. \_\_\_\_\_ it? 'Monty 10. \_\_\_\_\_ done it, because he was with Madeleine — and she was with him, so she 11. \_\_\_\_\_ done it either, 12. \_\_\_\_\_ she? But, wait a moment, they 13. \_\_\_\_\_ planned it together, 14. \_\_\_\_\_ they?'

'Well, I'm not reading the book, so I don't really know, but what about Clara? She's mad, so she 15. \_\_\_\_\_ done it.

She 16. \_\_\_\_\_ climbed through the window from the garden, still singing! Or the cook 17. \_\_\_\_\_ left her chips for a moment and gone to the library, I suppose. But then Jenkins would have seen her. .... but, of course, he had a motive, too! He and the cook 18. \_\_\_\_\_ done it together.' It's difficult, isn't it. It 19. \_\_\_\_\_ any of them. I'd better read some more.'

WELL? WHO DO YOU THINK IT 20. \_\_\_\_\_ BEEN? INSPECTOR NORTH SOON DISCOVERS AN IMPORTANT CLUE — MRS WILSON TELLS HER HUSBAND ABOUT IT.

# The Moneybags's Murder – part 2

## Must have

Madeleine must have left it there! She couldn't have noticed it.

Mrs Wilson has read a bit more of her book — Inspector North has found a clue: a long yellow hair on the library floor! Madeleine, the maid, has long yellow hair...

## must have or couldn't have:

Mrs Wilson: 'I knew it all the time. Madeleine 1. *must have killed* him. And Monty 2. \_\_\_\_\_ helped her. But they 3. \_\_\_\_\_ planned it very well, 4. \_\_\_\_\_ they, because they left such an important clue!

Mr Wilson: 'I don't agree. Those two 5. \_\_\_\_\_ committed the murder. That would be too obvious for a mystery story. I still think it 6. \_\_\_\_\_ been Jenkins. He had a good motive. Madeleine's hair 7. \_\_\_\_\_ fallen out earlier, when she was cleaning the library.'

## MONEYBAGS CASE SOLVED!

Inspector North decided to interview all the suspects separately. Complete the dialogues with the modals in brackets. Sometimes more than one is possible, but use each modal at least once:

## A (would / could / might)

NORTH: You 1. *could have run* down the stairs, shot your husband, and run back to the bath without anyone seeing you!

LADY M: No, I 2. \_\_\_\_\_ n't. That 3. \_\_\_\_\_ have been impossible. How 4. \_\_\_\_\_ I have done all that without being seen by Jenkins?

NORTH: Ah!! Jenkins 5. \_\_\_\_\_ have helped you, 6. \_\_\_\_\_ n't he?

## B (would / must / can't / need)

NORTH: You 1. \_\_\_\_\_ have helped Lady Moneybags to commit the crime. You 2. \_\_\_\_\_ n't bother to tell more lies!

JENKINS: I 3. \_\_\_\_\_ never have helped her do anything! I 4. \_\_\_\_\_ stand her! 5. \_\_\_\_\_ you see it 6. \_\_\_\_\_ have been Monty - he was always arguing with his father about money!

### C (should / would / could / must / can't)

NORTH: Maud Sludge! You 1. \_\_\_\_\_ have killed your master. You 2. \_\_\_\_\_ hide the truth any longer. You 3. \_\_\_\_\_ n't accept the way he criticised your cooking, 4. \_\_\_\_\_ you?

SLUDGE: It's true he was cruel to me, and I 5. \_\_\_\_\_ have killed the old fool. But I didn't! And you 6. \_\_\_\_\_ say I did! It 7. \_\_\_\_\_ have been that impertinent new French maid. You 8. \_\_\_\_\_ see the way she goes after Monty, and Lord Moneybags 9. \_\_\_\_\_ n't agree to their marriage.

### D (may / can / would / has to)

NORTH: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ you mind telling me what you were doing at the time of the murder?

MONTY: As you 2. \_\_\_\_\_ recall (since I have told you before), I was teaching Madeleine how to lay the table the English way. She 3. \_\_\_\_\_ do it absolutely right, you know, otherwise Mrs Sludge gets angry with her. Poor Madeleine 4. \_\_\_\_\_ never remember whether the forks go on the left or the right! I was just showing her, when we heard the shot, and ran to the library.

### E (must / 'll / could / can)

NORTH: Young lady, 1. \_\_\_\_\_ you explain to me how one of your hairs was found near the body?

MADELEINE: Certainly, it 2. \_\_\_\_\_ have fallen out of my head from shock, when I saw my dear master lying dead.

### F (must / 'll / could / can)

NORTH: Lady Clara, did you get on well with him?

CLARA: No, I 1. \_\_\_\_\_ n't stand him! 'He 2. \_\_\_\_\_ pay for it, though!

NORTH: Who? Your brother?

CLARA: No, Barratt, the gardener. My brother sent him away last week. Barratt 3. \_\_\_\_\_ have killed him. I saw him climb through the library window just before the shot was fired.

NORTH: Good lord! Why didn't you tell me before? He 4. \_\_\_\_\_ still be in the house!

### G (ought to / must / can't / won't)

'Good lord! The writer 1. \_\_\_\_\_ think his readers are stupid. I 2. \_\_\_\_\_ read any more of his books!' 'You 3. \_\_\_\_\_ try writing a murder story yourself. It 4. \_\_\_\_\_ be easy!