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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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

NORTH: Maud Sludge! You !_____ 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!

LIVEWORKSHEETS