

READING & TRAINING

Oscar Wilde

Lord Arthur Savile's Crime

and Other Stories



AUDIO CD



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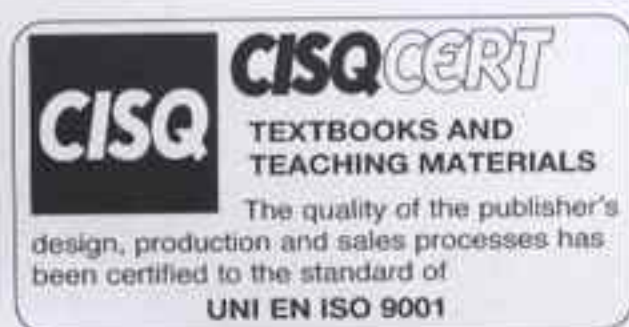
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Cambridge Preliminary English Test-style exercises

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This story is recorded in full.



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linked to the listening activities.



Oscar Wilde (1891).

Oscar Wilde

■ Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wilde was born in Dublin in 1854. He came from an important family – his father was a surgeon and his mother was a poet. He went to Oxford University, where he studied classics and history. He was an excellent student, and during those years he met influential artists and writers.

After university Wilde lived in London. He was a favourite of high society – he was talented, he was witty,¹ he was controversial. From the 1880s till his death in 1900, Wilde published poems, plays, short stories and one novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1891). His plays in particular made him famous. *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *A Woman of No Importance*, *An Ideal Husband* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* were all marked by brilliant construction, amusing dialogue, and a subtle² criticism of upper-class manners. He was particularly popular for his

1. **witty** : capable of quick and inventive verbal humour.

2. **subtle** [sʌt'l]: delicate, not obvious.

aphorisms – short, witty sentences – such as ‘I can resist everything except temptation’ and ‘genius is born, not paid’.

He married Constance Lloyd in 1884, and they had two sons. However, their marriage was not happy. Wilde’s unconventional private life became public in 1895, when he was sent to prison in Reading, to the west of London, for ‘immoral conduct’. Homosexuality was illegal in Britain at that time. After his two-year prison sentence he went to France and wrote his famous poem ‘The Ballad of Reading Gaol’ (1898).

Many artists have always challenged the moral and social conventions of their period. Wilde made fun of many of the beliefs of Victorian England, such as marriage, work and religion. His controversial lifestyle and opinions made him notorious, but it is his artistic genius that continues to attract readers all over the world.

He died in 1900, in Paris.

1 Complete the timeline with important events in Wilde’s life mentioned in the text.

- 1854
- 1884
- 1891
- 1895
- 1898
- 1900

2 Which word is different, and why?

- a. poet / surgeon / novelist / playwright
- b. *Lady Windermere’s Fan* / *An Ideal Husband* / *The Picture of Dorian Gray* / *The Importance of Being Earnest*
- c. brilliant / controversial / amusing / conventional

Lord Arthur Savile's Crime



Before you read

1 Characters

'Lord Arthur Savile's Crime' begins at Lady Windermere's party. In Part One these characters will be introduced:



Mr Podgers:
Lady Windermere's
personal fortune teller



The Duchess of Paisley:
a friend of
Lady Windermere



Lady Windermere:
a beautiful aristocrat



Lord Arthur Savile:
a young aristocrat

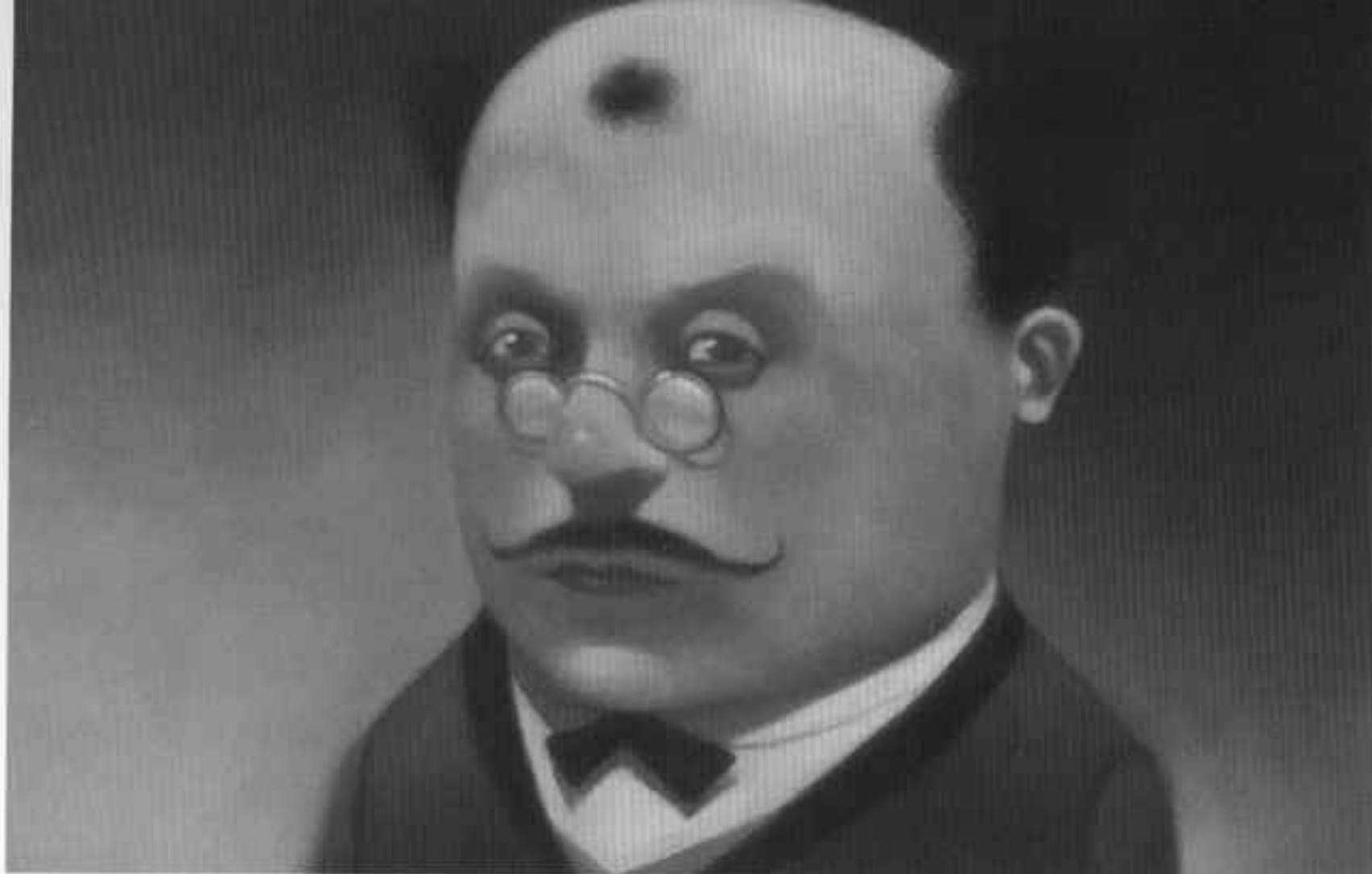


Sybil Merton:
Lord Arthur's fiancée

2 Predicting

As you read the beginning of Part One consider these points:

- the relations between the characters
- the characters you think will be important in the story
- what you think Lord Arthur's crime will be



PART ONE

The Chiromantist



It was Lady Windermere's last party before Easter and her house was even more full of people than usual. There were important politicians, beautiful women, princes and princesses from various parts of Europe.

There was an incredible variety of people. It was certainly one of Lady Windermere's best parties.

Lady Windermere was talking to the Duchess of Paisley. She looked beautiful with her pale¹ skin, large blue eyes and golden hair. Her hair was like a frame² and her face was the picture. She looked like a saint but had also the fascination of a sinner.³

1. **pale** : having little colour (whiter than usual).

2. **frame** : the border, usually wood, around a painting.

3. **sinner** : a person who breaks a religious or moral law.

Lord Arthur Savile's *Crime*

When she was young, she had a reputation for her unconventional behaviour. She had been married three times. Now she was forty and without children and her passion for pleasure kept her young.

She looked round the full room and in her high voice asked, 'Where is my chiromantist?'¹

The Duchess of Paisley replied surprised, 'Your what, Gladys?'

'My chiromantist, Duchess. I can't live without him.'

The Duchess was not sure what a chiromantist was and hoped it was not the same as a chiropodist.²

'He comes to see my hand twice a week and always has interesting things to say about it,' said Lady Windermere.

The Duchess was sure that the man was a sort of chiropodist and was shocked.

'I must introduce you to him,' said Lady Windermere.

'Introduce him!' cried the Duchess. 'Do you want to say that he's here?' She looked worried and prepared to leave.

'Of course he's here. I invite him to all my parties. He reads my hand.'

The Duchess finally realised what a chiromantist was and felt happier. 'Oh, I see,' she said. 'I suppose he tells fortunes?'

'And misfortunes,' answered Lady Windermere. 'Next year, I'm in great danger both on land and sea. So, I'm going to live in a balloon.'³ He told me he saw it in my little finger. Or was it on my palm? I can't remember.'

1. **chiromantist** ['kairə,məntɪst] : someone who thinks that a person's life is written on the palm of the hand.

2. **chiropodist** [ki'rɒpədɪst] : a person who treats problems of the feet.

3. **balloon** :



The Chiromantist



The Duchess told her that it was dangerous to interfere with the future.

'My dear Duchess, I think the reading of your hands is necessary once a month. In that way, you'll know the things you shouldn't do. Of course, you do the things anyway, but it's fun to know.' Lady Windermere stopped for a moment and said, 'Now, where is Mr Podgers? I have to find him.'

'I'll look for him, Lady Windermere,' said a tall, handsome young man who was standing near them.

'Thank you so much, Lord Arthur; but you don't know him.'

'Tell me, Lady Windermere, what he's like, and I'll bring him to you immediately.'

Lady Windermere began her description. 'Well, he doesn't look like a chiromantist. He isn't mysterious and he doesn't look romantic. In fact, he's a little, fat man with no hair and gold glasses. He looks a bit like a country doctor and a bit like a country lawyer. I'm really sorry if my description doesn't help you very much. Unfortunately, people are so irritating. Their appearance is often so different from what they really do. Ah, here is Mr Podgers! Now, Mr Podgers, I want you to read the Duchess of Paisley's hand.'

She turned to the Duchess.

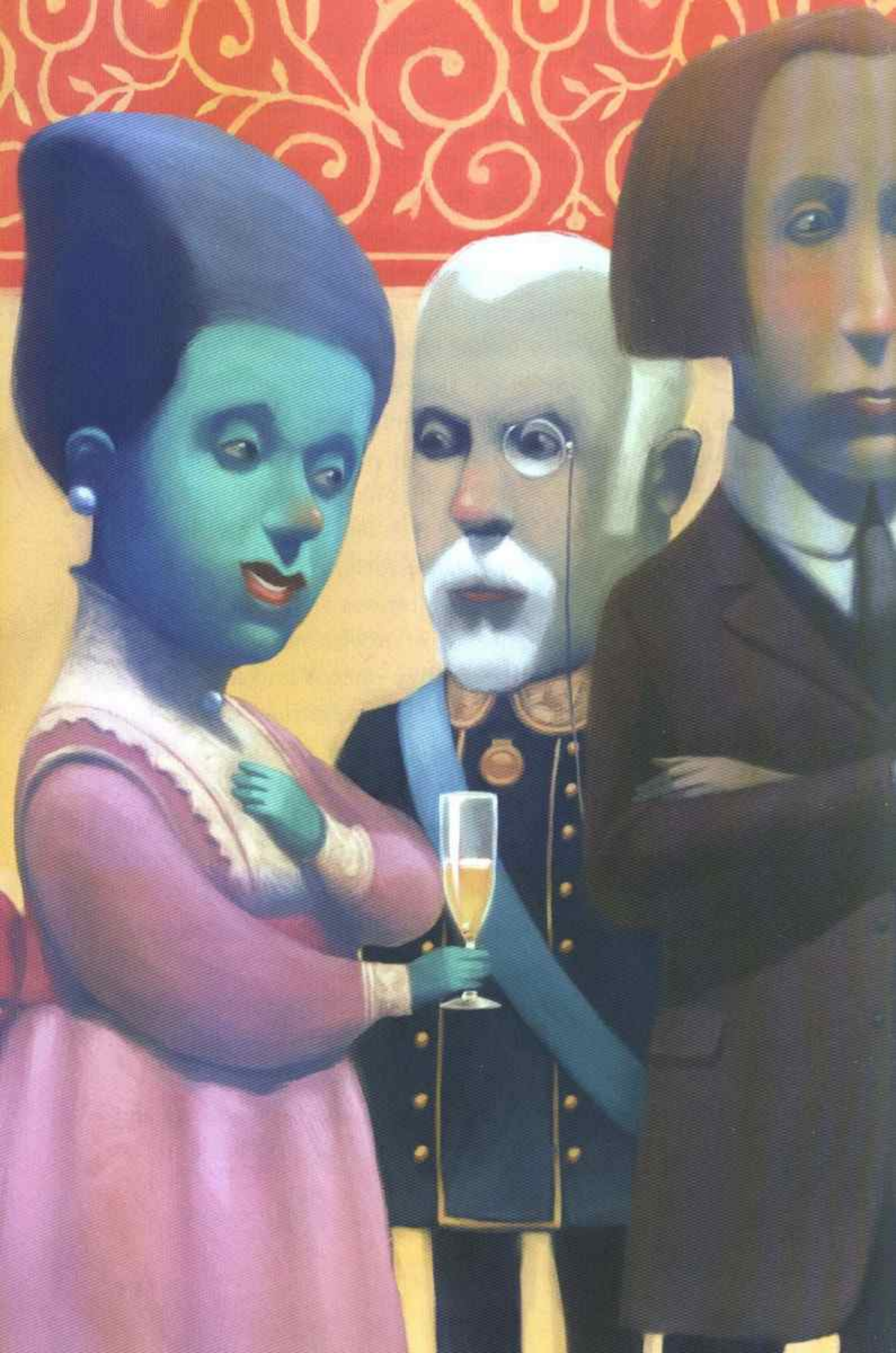
'Duchess, you must take off your glove.¹ No, not the left hand, the other one.'

The Duchess said it was not right. 'Nothing interesting ever is,' replied Lady Windermere.

She introduced the Duchess to Mr Podgers.

The chiromantist looked at the hand; it was little and fat and had short, square fingers. 'You'll live to a great age, Duchess, and be

1. **glove** : a piece of clothing that covers your hand.





Lord Arthur Savile's *Crime*

extremely happy,' said Mr Podgers. 'Ambition — very moderate, the line of the intellect is not exaggerated, the line of the heart —'

'Now, be indiscreet, Mr Podgers,' cried Lady Windermere.

The fortune teller agreed and bowed.¹ 'I see a great affection and a strong sense of duty.' Mr Podgers stopped for a moment. 'Please continue,' said the Duchess, who was now happy at the things she was hearing.

'Not spending very much money is also one of your virtues.'

Lady Windermere found this very amusing and laughed loudly.

'Economy is very important,' replied the Duchess. 'When I married my husband, the Duke of Paisley, he had eleven castles and no house suitable² to live in.'

'And now he has twelve houses, and not a single castle,' cried Lady Windermere.

'Well, my dear,' said the Duchess, 'I like —'

'Comfort,' said Mr Podgers, 'and modern conveniences, hot water, things like that. You're quite right. Comfort is the only thing our civilisation can give us.'

Lady Windermere was very pleased with Mr Podgers. 'You have described the Duchess's character very well and now you must tell Lady Flora's.'

A tall girl with red hair came forward. She had long, thin hands and thin fingers.

'Ah, a pianist! I see,' said Mr Podgers, 'an excellent pianist, but perhaps not a musician. Very reserved, very honest, someone who loves animals.'

'Quite true!' replied the Duchess. 'My daughter has twenty-four dogs in the country.'

1. **bowed** : lowered his head as a sign of respect.

2. **suitable** [sju:təbl] : appropriate.



Lord Arthur Savile's *Crime*

Mr Podgers then read the hand of Sir Thomas, a friendly-looking old gentleman. Again, he surprised his listeners with the accuracy of what he said. 'Extraordinary!' said Sir Thomas. 'You must read my wife's hand.'

'Your second wife's. I'll be very pleased,' said Mr Podgers.

Sir Thomas's wife, however, refused. She did not want to hear about her past or her future. Nor did the Russian Ambassador, who refused even to remove his gloves. In fact, many people seemed afraid of the strange little man in the gold glasses. The chiromantist told Lady Fermor that she did not like music, but she liked musicians. Many guests thought that the things Mr Podgers said were probably too dangerous for an occasion like this.

Lord Arthur Savile was watching Mr Podgers with interest. He wanted the man to read his hand, but was too timid to ask directly. He crossed the room to where Lady Windermere was sitting and said, 'Lady Windermere, do you think Mr Podgers will read my hand?'

'Of course,' said Lady Windermere, 'that's why he's here. But be careful, Lord Arthur. I'm having lunch with Sybil tomorrow and if Mr Podgers discovers terrible things about you, I'll tell her everything.'

Lord Arthur smiled, and shook his head. 'I'm afraid not,' he said. 'Sybil knows me as well as I know her.'

Lady Windermere called Mr Podgers who, at that moment, was reading a lady's hand. 'Mr Podgers, Lord Arthur Savile would like you to read his hand. Don't tell him that he has promised to marry one of the most beautiful girls in London, Sybil Merton. That was in the newspapers!'

An interested audience watched Mr Podgers, who took Lord Arthur's hand. 'Now, Mr Podgers,' said Lady Windermere, 'make sure you tell us something nice. Lord Arthur is one of my special favourites.'

Go back to the text

PET 1 Read the questions below. For each question, mark the letter next to the correct answer – A, B, C or D.

- 1 Why was the party one of Lady Windermere's best?
 - A It was the last one before Easter.
 - B There were many different types of interesting people.
 - C The house was full of people.
 - D There was no one there.

- 2 Which statement about Lady Windermere is *not* correct?
 - A She was beautiful before.
 - B She had been married several times.
 - C She enjoyed life.
 - D She had no children.

- 3 What is Mr Podgers like?
 - A short and fat with black hair and gold glasses
 - B tall and thin with no hair and gold glasses
 - C short and fat with no hair and gold glasses
 - D short and fat with a beard and gold glasses

- 4 How many people at the party did not want Mr Podgers to read their hands?
 - A four
 - B one
 - C two
 - D three

2 Oscar Wilde was famous for his wit, an amusing and intelligent type of humour. Lady Windermere is similar:

'I suppose he tells fortunes?' (asked the Duchess of Paisley)

'And misfortunes,' answered Lady Windermere. 'Next year, I'm in great danger both on land and sea. So, I'm going to live in a balloon.'

Find other examples of Lady Windermere's humour in Part One.

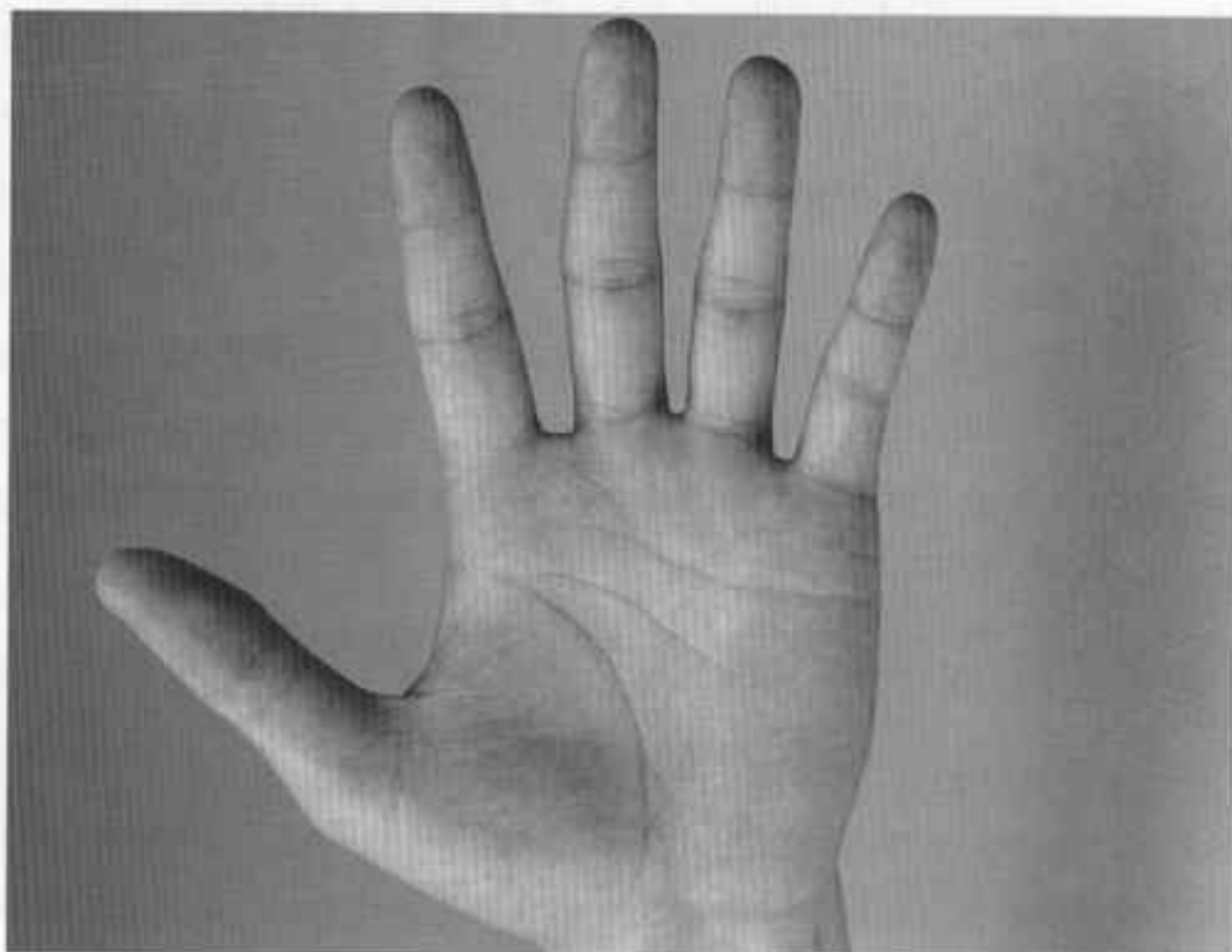
- 3 Mr Podgers is very diplomatic. When he reads the Duchess of Paisley's hand he says: 'the line of the intellect is not exaggerated', but he probably wants to say: 'you are not particularly intelligent'. Work with a partner and complete the table below.

| What Mr Podgers said to... | What he wanted to say |
|---|-----------------------|
| The Duchess of Paisley • not spending very much money is also one of your virtues | |
| Lady Flora • you are an excellent pianist, but perhaps not a musician | |
| Lady Fermor • you do not like music, but you like musicians | |

4 **Palm reading or chiromancy**

Mr Podgers believes that the lines on the palm of our hands tell us about our past, present and future.

- a. Label the picture of the hand with the words below.



middle finger wrist palm thumb index finger

- b. Where are these lines? Read these descriptions of the fate and life lines and draw the lines on the picture of the hand opposite. Compare the lines you have drawn with the lines on your palm.

Fate or destiny line: This begins in the middle of the palm near the wrist and goes towards the middle finger.

Life line: This line begins between the index finger and thumb. It then goes down across the middle of the palm towards the wrist.

T: GRADE 5

5 Topic: Talking about the future – informing and predicting

Working with a partner make some predictions about your future, and prepare a talk for your class. Use the questions below to help you.

- Where do you think you will live: in your country or abroad?
- Will you live in a town or in the country?
- What job will you do?
- Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future?

Before you read

1 Predicting

In Part One, Mr Podgers reads Lord Arthur's hand. What do you think will happen? Put a tick (✓) next to the events you expect. Discuss your ideas with a partner.

- Mr Podgers refuses at first to tell Lord Arthur what he has seen in his hand.
- Mr Podgers refuses to tell Lord Arthur what he has seen and leaves the house.
- Mr Podgers tells Lord Arthur that he will only read his hand if he is paid.
- Lord Arthur tells Mr Podgers to stop because he does not want to hear any more.
- Lady Windermere tells Mr Podgers to leave the house.
- Lord Arthur insists that Mr Podgers tells him what he has seen.
- Mr Podgers agrees to tell Lord Arthur what he has seen.



PART TWO

Lord Arthur's Hand



When Mr Podgers saw Lord Arthur's hand, he went pale and said nothing. He was sweating¹ and his fat fingers were cold and wet.

Lord Arthur saw Mr Podgers' agitation and, for the first time in his young life, he was afraid. He wanted to run out of the room, but he also wanted to know what horrible things were waiting for him.

'I'm waiting, Mr Podgers,' he said.

'We're all waiting,' cried Lady Windermere. The chiromantist did not reply.

1. **sweating** : losing liquid from your skin because you are hot, ill or afraid.

Lord Arthur's Hand

Suddenly, Mr Podgers let go of Lord Arthur's right hand and took the left one. He examined it so closely that his gold glasses almost touched the palm. For a moment, his face became a white mask of horror. He then recovered his self control and, pretending to smile, said, 'It is the hand of a charming young man.'

'Of course it is!' answered Lady Windermere, 'but will he be a charming husband? We want details, Mr Podgers. What's going to happen to Lord Arthur?'

'Well, in the next few months, Lord Arthur will go on a journey.'

'Oh yes, his honeymoon, of course.'

'And lose a distant relative,'¹ Mr Podgers added.

'Well, I'm very disappointed,' said Lady Windermere. 'I have nothing to tell Sybil tomorrow. No one is interested in distant relatives these days. Come on. Let's go and eat. If there's anything left to eat, of course.'

The Duchess, her daughter, Flora, and Sir Thomas walked towards the dining room. At the same time, Lord Arthur Savile remained standing where he was. He felt that something unpleasant was coming into his life. He looked at his lovely sister who was walking past him; he did not notice that Lady Windermere was calling him to follow her. He thought of Sybil Merton, and the idea that anything could separate them brought tears to his eyes.

He could not move. He had lived a life of luxury and fortune. Now, for the first time in his life, he understood the terrible mystery of destiny, and the awful² meaning of doom.³

1. **relative** : a member of your family.

2. **awful** : terrible, horrible.

3. **doom** : a terrible event that is inevitable, such as death or destruction.

Lord Arthur Savile's *Crime*

Was some terrible secret or crime written on his hand that he could not read? Was any escape possible? We are, he thought, like pieces on a chessboard, ¹ moved by an invisible power. This thought made him angry, but at the same time he felt that tragedy was waiting for him. Actors are lucky. They can choose their role – either in a tragedy or in a comedy. Real life is different. Most men and women have to play parts they are not qualified for. The world is a stage, but the actors are in the wrong roles.

Suddenly, Mr Podgers entered the room. When he saw Lord Arthur, his fat face turned a green-yellow colour. The two men looked at each other. For a moment there was silence. Mr Podgers did not want to talk and tried to avoid ² Lord Arthur. 'Where is the Duchess' glove? Ah, here it is! Good evening!'

'Mr Podgers, I'm going to ask you a question and I want you to give me a simple answer.'

'Another time, Lord Arthur. The Duchess is waiting,' replied Mr Podgers.

Lord Arthur walked towards Mr Podgers and offered him his hand again. 'Tell me what you saw there,' he said. 'Tell me the truth. I must know it. I'm not a child.'

Mr Podgers played nervously with his watch chain. ³

'Why do you think I saw anything in your hand, Lord Arthur?'

'I know you did. I insist you tell me. I'll pay you one hundred pounds.' Mr Podgers looked interested.

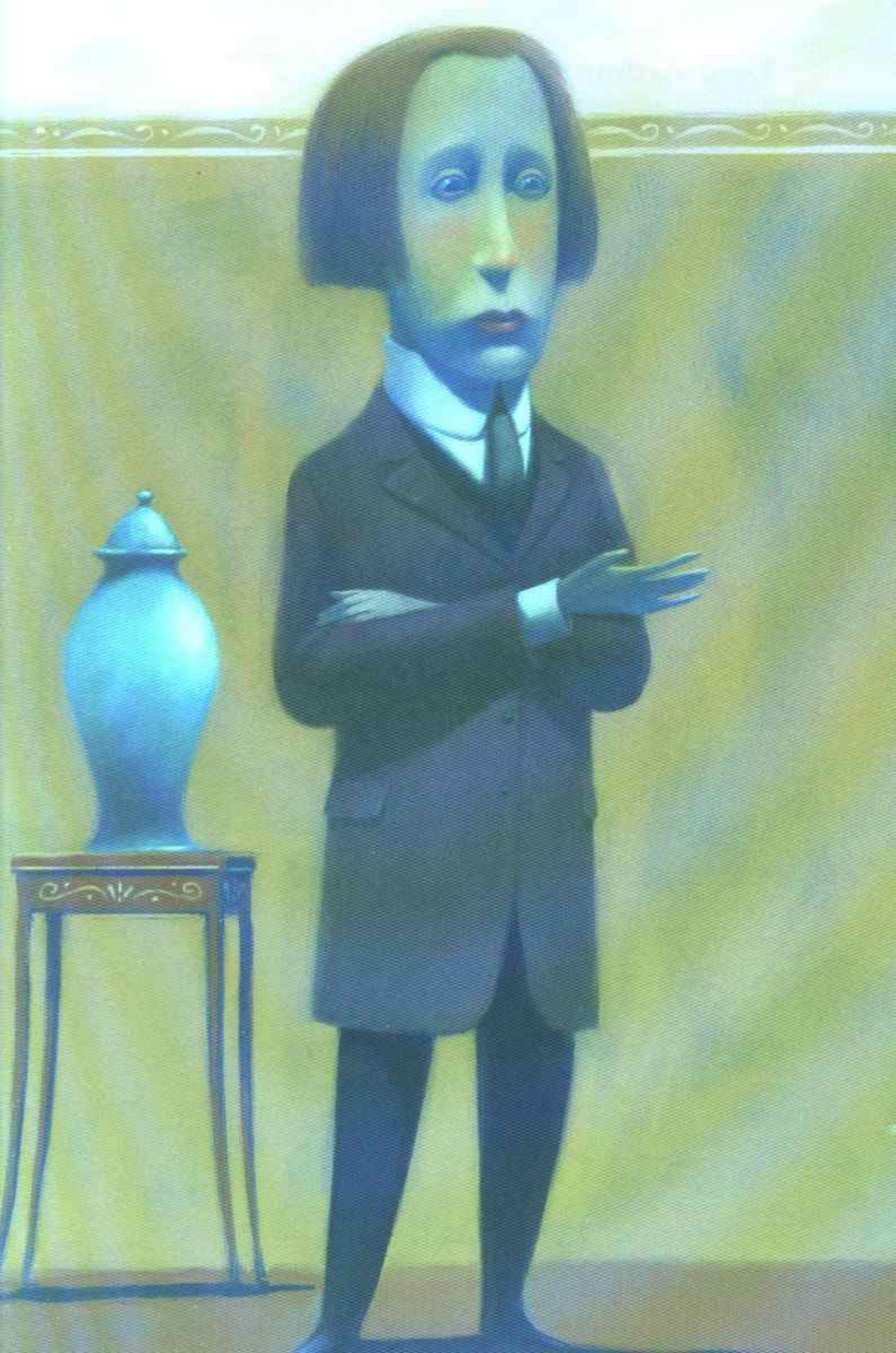
1. chessboard :



2. avoid : (here) try hard not to meet somebody.

3. watch chain :





Lord Arthur Savile's *Crime*

'Guineas?'¹ said Mr Podgers in a low voice.

'Certainly, I'll send you a cheque tomorrow. What is your club?'²

'I have no club at present, Lord Arthur. This is my address.'

Mr Podgers gave Lord Arthur his card.

Mr Septimus R. Podgers

PROFESSIONAL CHIROMANTIST

103a West Moon Street

'My hours are from ten to four with reductions for families,' Mr Podgers said.

'Be quick,' cried Lord Arthur. He looked very pale and showed him his hand.

'It will take a little time, Lord Arthur, please sit down.'

Lord Arthur was now angry. 'Be quick, sir,' cried Lord Arthur a second time.

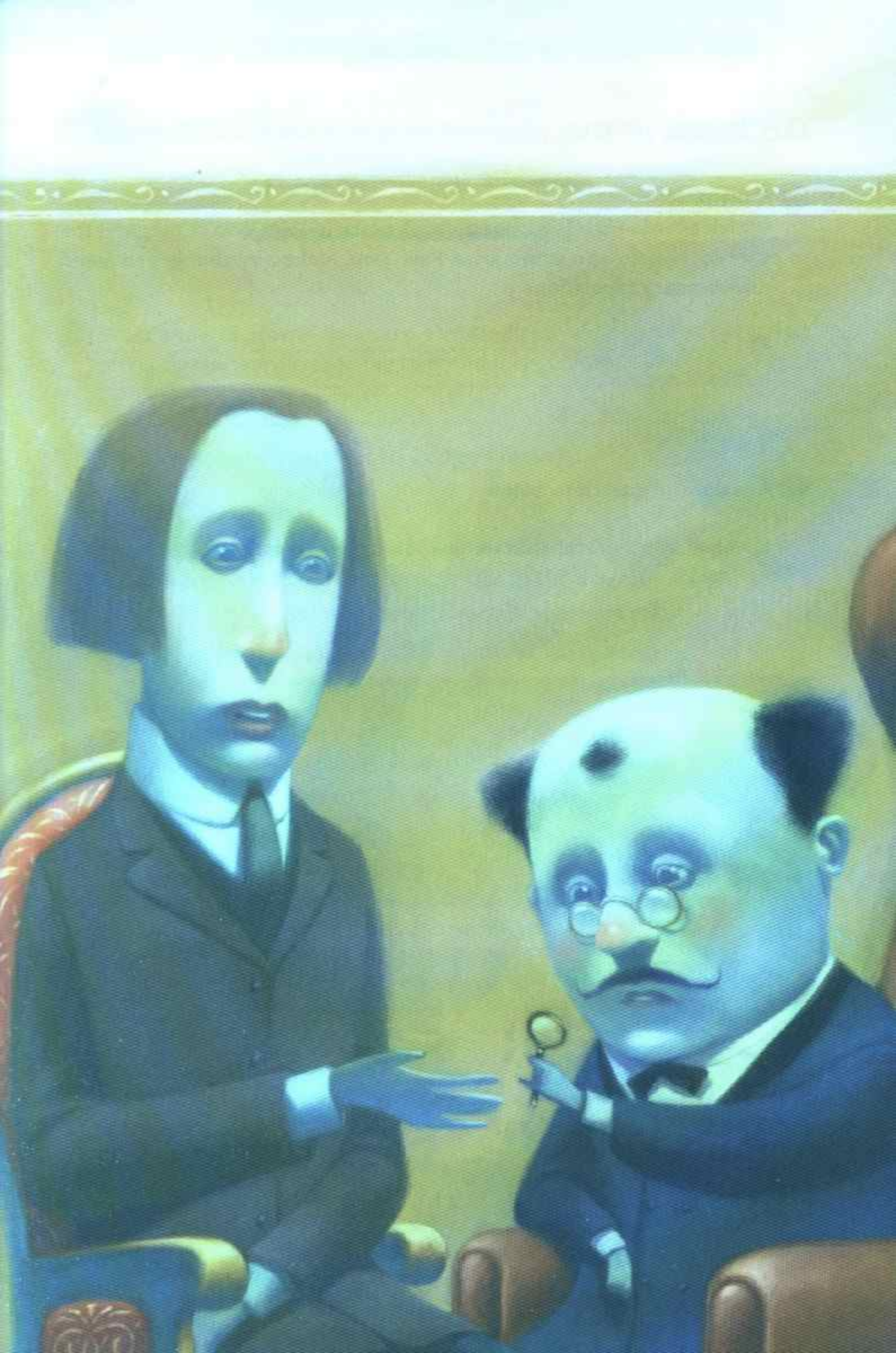
Mr Podgers smiled and pulled a small magnifying glass³ out of his pocket. He cleaned it carefully with his handkerchief.

'I'm ready,' he said.

1. **Guineas** : an old unit of British currency; 1 pound = 20 shillings; 1 guinea = 21 shillings.
2. **club** : an organisation offering members meals and temporary residence.

3. **magnifying glass** :





Go back to the text

1 Comprehension

Which events listed on page 19 took place in Part Two? Complete the sentences below to summarise Part Two. Make any changes to avoid unnecessary repetition.

At first ,
 but Lord Arthur
 and so finally

2 Answer the questions below.

1. What was different about how Mr Podgers read Lord Arthur's hand?
 - a. He read Lord Arthur's right hand first.
 - b. He read Lord Arthur's left hand first.
 - c. He read both of Lord Arthur's hands.

2. Why did Mr Podgers hesitate to tell Lord Arthur what he had seen in his hand?
 - a. He wanted to ask Lord Arthur to visit him privately.
 - b. He did not understand what he had seen.
 - c. He was afraid of what he had seen.

3 Characters

How does Mr Podgers physically react to what he has seen?

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Face | |
| Hands | |

4 Which of these words refer to Mr Podgers?

- a. charming
- c. nervously
- e. lovely

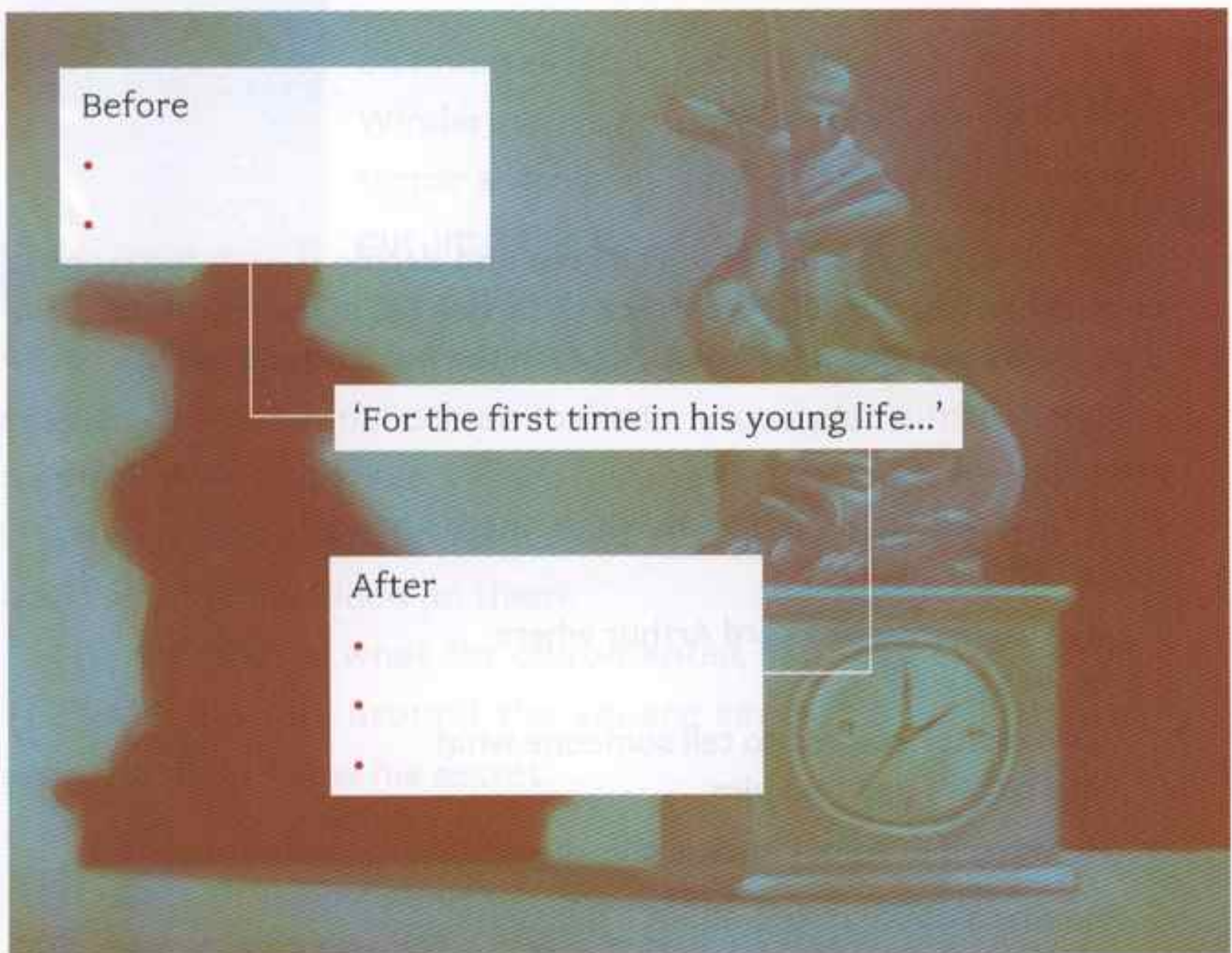
- b. sweating
- d. agitation

5 What type of words (a-e) are they (adjectives, nouns, etc.)? What effect do the words referring to Mr Podgers create?

6 What two predictions does Mr Podgers make?

7 Lord Arthur understands something terrible is about to happen... Put these words into their correct place in the diagram below.

evil fortune doom horror luxury



- 8 What was Arthur afraid of? Discuss your ideas with your partner.
- 9 'For the first time in his life he understood the terrible mystery of destiny and the awful meaning of doom.'

a. Lord Arthur is angry because he feels he cannot control his own destiny. Complete the following table to show what he thinks life is like.

| Life is like... | We are like... | Have we any choice? |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| a chessboard | pieces on a chessboard | no |
| a stage | | |

b. What is the difference between most people in real life and actors?

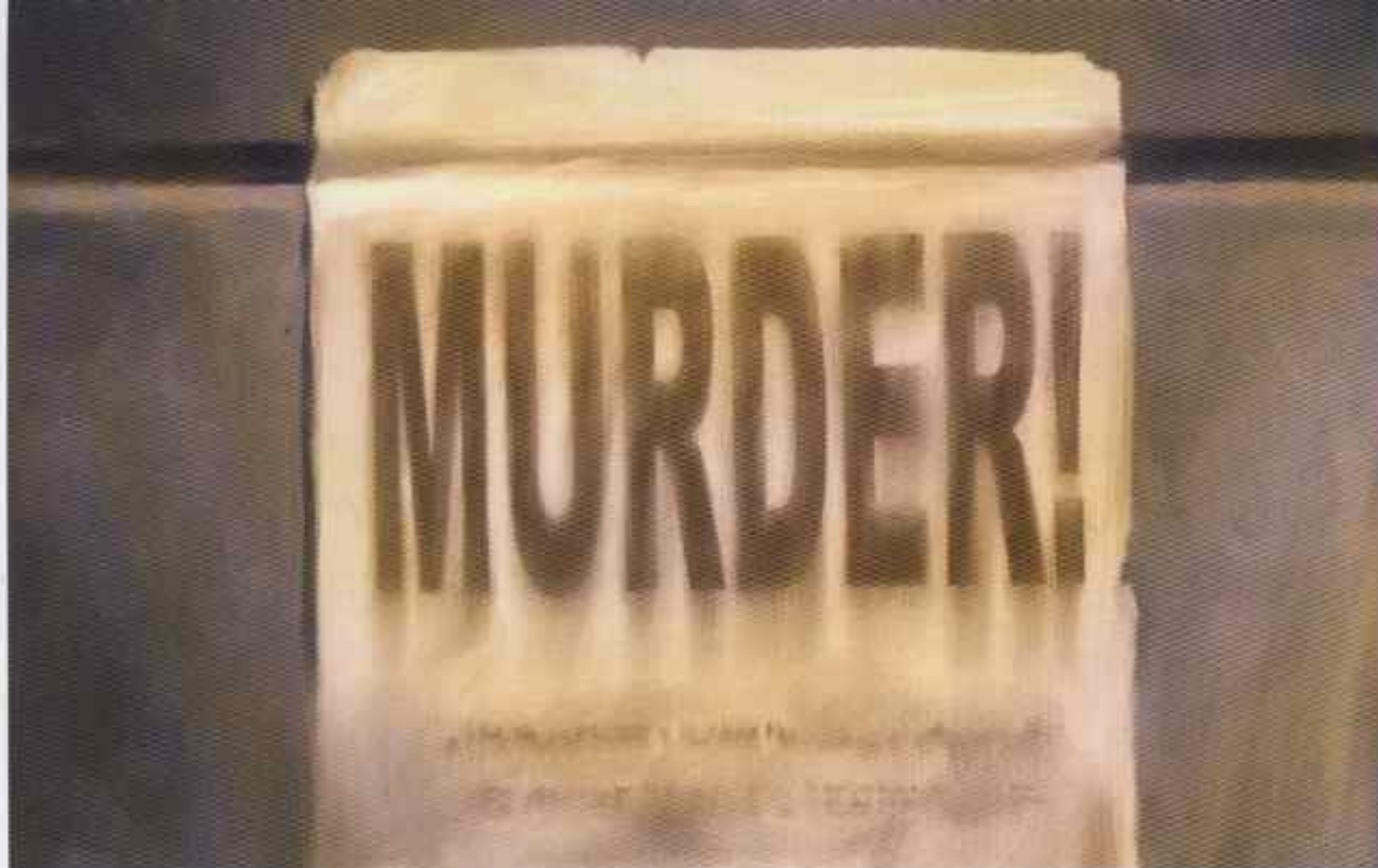
Before you read



1 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Part Three and decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, put a tick (✓) in the box under A for YES. If it is not correct, put a tick (✓) in the box under B for NO.

| | A | B |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | YES | NO |
| 1 When Lord Arthur left Lady Windermere's house he felt very cold. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 A policeman asked Lord Arthur where he was going. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Lord Arthur wanted to tell someone what Mr Podgers had told him. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 He walked in a poor area of the city. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 He saw a police notice about a murderer. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



PART THREE

Murder



Ten minutes later, Lord Arthur ran out of Lady Windermere's house. His face was white with terror and his eyes full of sadness. He walked out into the square. It was lit by gas-lamps. The night was extremely cold, but his hands were hot and his face burned like fire. He did not stop walking. He seemed drunk.¹ A policeman looked curiously at him; a beggar² was frightened to see someone unhappier than he was. He stopped under a lamp, and looked at his hands. He thought he could already see blood on them.

Murder! That is what the chiromantist had seen on his hands. The wind blowing around the square seemed to tell him that even the night knew his secret.

1. **drunk** : if you are drunk, you have drunk too much alcohol.
2. **beggar** : a very poor person who lives by asking people for money.

Lord Arthur Savile's *Crime*

He came to Regent's Park.¹ The dark trees seemed to fascinate him. He was tired and rested for a moment. 'Murder! Murder!' he repeated. He was frightened by the sound of his own voice. He felt a mad desire to stop someone passing by and tell him everything.

He then walked across Oxford Street and into other smaller streets. Two women with painted faces laughed at him. He could hear the sounds of physical violence. He felt pity. Were these children of sin and misery destined to an end similar to his? Were they, like him, puppets² in a monstrous show?

He understood that suffering was a comedy not a mystery. It had no meaning, no form, no harmony.

After some time he found himself in front of Marylebone Church. Lord Arthur walked quickly towards Portland Place. Sometimes he looked behind him, because he thought that someone was following him. On the corner of Rich Street two men were reading a notice. He was curious to see what they were reading. He saw the word 'Murder' printed in big black letters. It was a notice that offered a reward³ for any information about a man of medium height, between thirty and forty years of age, with a scar⁴ on his right cheek. The last time this man was seen, he was wearing a hat, a black coat and brown trousers. He read it again and again. 'Will they catch him? How did he get the scar? Will people read my name on the walls of London, one day?' he thought.

This idea horrified him. He walked on in the dark but did not know where he wanted to go. He remembered vaguely walking through poor, dirty streets. When day came he was in Piccadilly

1. **Regent's Park** : one of London's largest parks.
2. **puppets** : marionettes, dolls (here) controlled by other forces.
3. **reward** : money paid for work or merit.
4. **scar** : a line or a mark on the skin left by damage to part of your body.



Lord Arthur Savile's *Crime*

Circus. He walked towards Belgrave Square and saw the great wagons pulled by horses bringing fruit to Covent Garden market. The men riding the big grey horses had pleasant, sunburnt faces and shouted happily to each other. He saw a fat boy wearing an old hat with flowers in it. He was laughing. There were lots of vegetables in the wagons. The green vegetables contrasted with the pink of the early morning sky. Lord Arthur was moved by the scene, but he could not say why. The beauty of the new day seemed to him sadly pathetic: the days start in beauty but end in a storm, he thought.



These men from the country saw a different London. A London free from the sin of night and the smoke of the day. He asked himself what these people knew about the city; its splendour, its shame,¹ its joys, its hunger. London to them was probably just a market where they sold their fruit and their vegetables. They stayed only a few hours and then left. It gave him pleasure to watch them. He felt that they had lived with Nature and because of this had learned peace. He wanted their innocence.

When he reached Belgrave Square the sky was pale blue and the birds were beginning to sing.

1. **shame** : disgrace, dishonour.



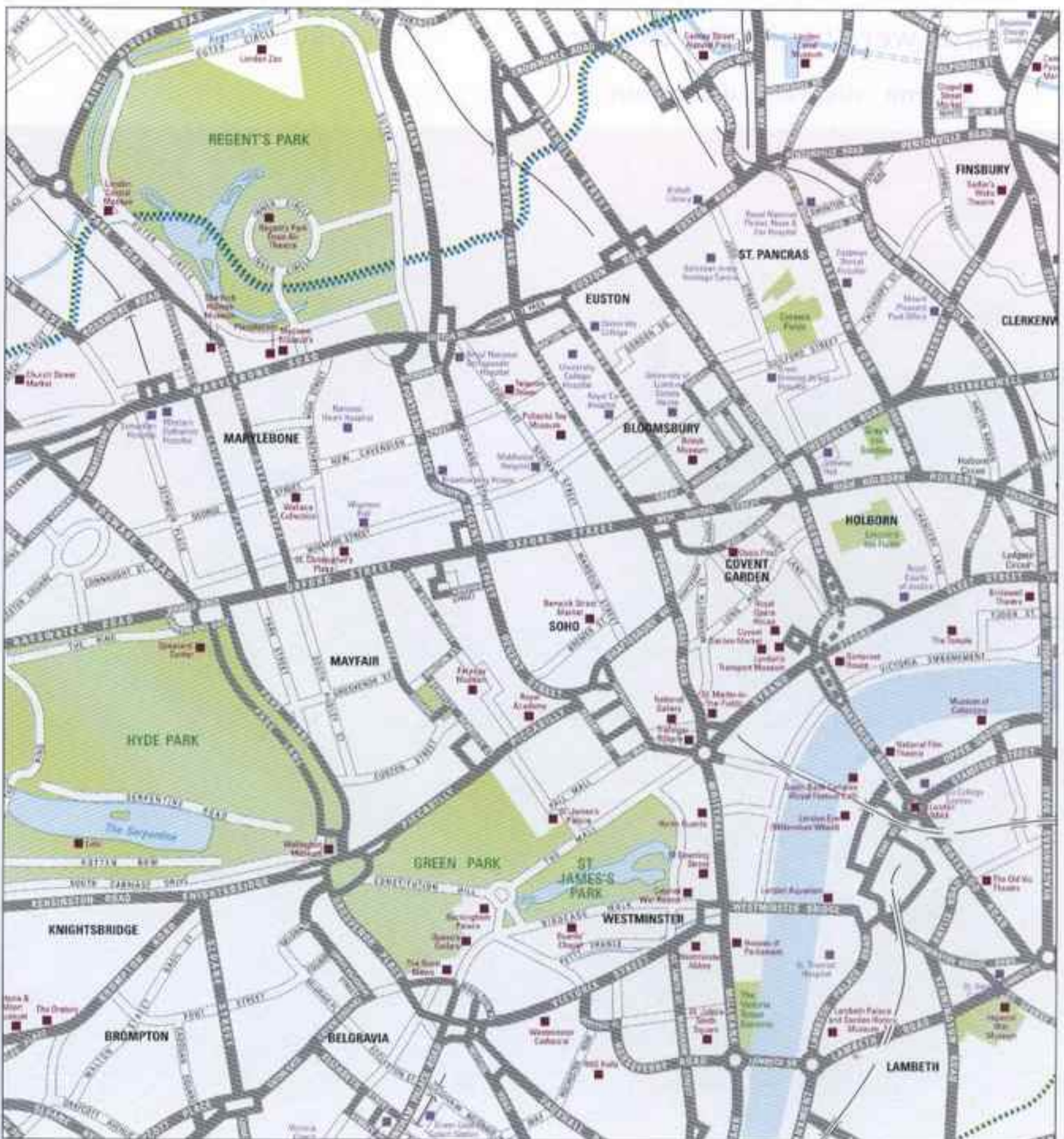
Go back to the text

1 What did Mr Podgers tell Lord Arthur?

- a. You have killed someone.
- b. You must kill someone.
- c. You will kill someone.

2 Lord Arthur's night walk through London

How many of the places in the table opposite can you find on this map of London?



- 3 Lord Arthur stopped at seven places on his way from Lady Windemere's to his home in Belgrave Square. Complete the table with the missing information.

| | Location | What happened here? |
|----|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. | Outside Lady Windermere's house | He stopped and looked at at his hands |
| b. | Regent's Park | |
| c. | Oxford Street | |
| d. | Marylebone Church | ----- |
| e. | Portland Place | |
| f. | Rich Street | |
| g. | Piccadilly Circus | ----- |
| h. | Covent Garden | |
| i. | Belgrave Square | |

- 4 Lord Arthur saw this police notice.

WANTED For MURDER

A **REWARD** is offered for any information about a man of medium height, between 30 and 40 years of age, with a scar on his right cheek.

The man was last seen wearing a hat, black coat and brown trousers.

Prepare a notice similar to the one above. Base your notice on the description given by a witness below.

'I was coming home. I opened my front door and I heard someone inside. "Strange," I thought. My husband normally comes home at 6 o'clock. Then I heard a man upstairs. He was looking for something valuable. Well, of course he found my ring. It was on the table. I was afraid. I went outside and shouted, "Police, police, call the police." Then I saw him running out of the house. Very tall, very thin, blond hair. About my age, 40, 45. Oh yes, and he was wearing a brown jacket.'

When Lord Arthur arrived in Rich Street, ‘...two men were reading a notice’

We use the **Past Continuous** (*was/were + -ing*) to describe an action that we were in the middle of when something happened. We often use the Simple and Past Continuous together when one action (often shorter) comes in the middle of another (often longer). The two sentences are often linked by time words like *when*, *while* and *as*.

The Past Continuous also creates a background for a narrative:
When Lord Arthur arrived home, the birds were singing.

5 The Past Continuous

Find the second part of each sentence and put each verb into the correct form. An example (0) has been done for you.

- a. When the policeman (see)^{saw}..... Lord Arthur,
 - b. The wind (blow) around the square
 - c. When two women (see) him,
 - d. As Lord Arthur (walk) along,
 - e. Lord Arthur (want) to know
 - f. As the men (ride) their horses,
 - g. The sun (rise)
-
0. he (leave)was leaving..... Lady Windermere's house.
 1. they (shout) happily to each other.
 2. they (laugh) at him.
 3. when Lord Arthur (notice) the boy with the hat.
 4. he thought someone (follow) him.
 5. as Lord Arthur (begin) his night time walk.
 6. what the men (look) at.

London

the World City

During the late nineteenth century London's population increased rapidly. Between 1871 and 1901 it rose faster than any other British city. By 1901 London's population was around 6.5 million people. Why did it grow so quickly? London was not England's only industrial city. In some activities such as textiles, shipbuilding and chemicals, London was actually less important than Manchester, Birmingham or Liverpool. It was probably business and commerce that contributed to London's growth. London's port was the most important in the country. The growth in the administration of business and government also created new jobs. From 1875 to 1901,



Westminster Bridge, London (1886) by Claude Thomas Stanfield Moore.

new public offices, hospitals, schools and universities were built. Visitors to London can still see these buildings today: for example, the major railway stations (St Pancras, Victoria, Liverpool Street) and the great museums (the Victoria & Albert, the British Museum). London's growth was one of the themes that fascinated people of that time. Another was the contrast between rich and poor that London showed. This division was also reflected in the city's geography, with the elegance of the West End and the slums¹ of the East End.

Victorian London – a long period marked by Queen Victoria's reign from 1837 to 1901 – has been described by historians, but it is probably through the fiction of the period that we have an idea of



The Railway Station (1862) by William Powell Frith.

1. **slums** : areas of poor houses.

life in the city, London has always been a favourite subject for many writers. During the first half of the period, Charles Dickens set many of his novels in the city, such as *Oliver Twist*, *Bleak House* and *Our Mutual Friend*. London was an essential ingredient: its people, its buildings, its injustices, its fog. *Bleak House* begins like this: 'Fog¹ everywhere... Fog up the river...Fog down the river...Fog on the ...Marshes²...Fog in the eyes and throats...' Writers from towards the end of the Victorian period, such as H. G. Wells, were fascinated by the splendour and squalor of London. One of Wells' characters described it as 'the richest town in the world, the biggest port, the greatest manufacturing town, the Imperial city, the centre of circulation, the heart of the world...' (Tono Bungay). Oscar Wilde set many of his stories in the city. Lord Arthur Savile takes the reader on a night-time walk in the West End; starting from Regent's Park he goes to Oxford Street and then to Covent Garden, which was, at that time, the city's fruit and vegetable market. When he sees the country people bringing their produce into London, he asks himself what they know about London, 'its splendour, its shame, its joys, its hunger'. Wilde, the artist, was fascinated by London and the contrasts it offered.

- 1 What was different about London in comparison to other British cities?
- 2 What examples of Victorian London can still be seen today?
- 3 What two aspects of London interested Victorians?

1. **fog** : thick mist which makes it difficult to see.
2. **Marshes** : soft, wet land.

- 4 Wilde summarises the contrasts in London. Complete the table.

| Positive aspects | Negative aspects |
|------------------|------------------|
| | |

Before you read

- 1 Mr Podgers has told Lord Arthur that he will murder someone, but do we know

- who?
- how?
- when?
- where?

Make some predictions about what you think will happen, then read on.



2 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Part Four. For each question, put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 What time did Lord Arthur wake up? | A <input type="checkbox"/> 11 a.m. B <input type="checkbox"/> 12 p.m. C <input type="checkbox"/> 1 p.m. |
| 2 What did he do after drinking a cup of chocolate? | A <input type="checkbox"/> he had breakfast B <input type="checkbox"/> he wrote a letter to Sybil C <input type="checkbox"/> he had a bath |
| 3 How did he feel? | A <input type="checkbox"/> better B <input type="checkbox"/> the same as the night before C <input type="checkbox"/> tired and hungry |
| 4 How many decisions did Lord Arthur make? | A <input type="checkbox"/> one B <input type="checkbox"/> two C <input type="checkbox"/> three |



PART FOUR

Sybil



hen Lord Arthur woke up it was twelve o'clock. The midday sun shone through the silk curtains of his room. He got up and looked out of the window. In the square below, children were playing and the street was full of people on their way to the park. Life was wonderful; worries were far away.

His servant brought him a cup of chocolate. He drank it and then went into the bathroom. His bath was ready. He got into the marble bath and put his head under the water. He wanted to remove the memory of the previous night. After the bath he felt better. He got dressed.

After breakfast he sat down on the sofa. On the mantelpiece¹ was a photograph of Sybil Merton at Lady Noel's ball, where he



1. **mantelpiece** : shelf above a fireplace.

Lord Arthur Savile's *Crime*

had met her the first time. She was perfect. Her head was small but wonderfully shaped; her neck was delicate and thin. Her eyes expressed tender purity. She had grace. Lord Arthur looked at her and he felt pity for the woman he loved.

How could he now marry her? How could they be happy? Perhaps at any moment the terrible prophecy written in his hand would come true. The marriage must be postponed. He had no doubt. Although he loved her, he knew he could not marry her. First, he had to commit the murder. After this, he could marry Sybil, free from shame forever. It must be done, and the sooner the better.

Lord Arthur had a strong sense of duty. He believed that principles came before pleasure. There was more than just passion in his love for Sybil; for him she was a symbol of everything that was good and noble. For a moment he was disgusted by the idea of what he had to do. But the feeling soon passed. His heart told him that what he had to do was not a sin but a sacrifice. He was convinced that he had no choice. Lord Arthur was not a dreamer. He was a practical person who preferred a life of action to a life of thought. He had a rare quality, common sense.¹

He now felt embarrassed by last night's walk through the streets of London. He asked himself how he had possibly suffered so much about something that was so inevitable. However, one question disturbed him: who must he kill? He realised that murder needs a victim as well as a murderer. He was not a genius and so he had no enemies. He considered some people that he did not like, but he told himself that this was not the right occasion for simple revenge.² No,

1. **common sense** : good sense, a person's natural ability to make good judgements.
2. **revenge** : something that you do to punish someone who has hurt you.



Lord Arthur Savile's *Crime*

his mission was important and solemn. He made a list of names of friends and relatives. After careful consideration he chose one name: Lady Clementina Beauchamp, a distant relative who lived in Curzon Street. Lord Arthur liked the old lady very much. He was rich and no one could suspect him of killing her for money. Yes, she was perfect. He must start immediately.

How could he kill her? He decided that poison was the best solution. He did not like physical violence. Yes, poison was the answer. It was safe, sure, and quiet. He went to his club. He knew nothing about the science of poison. He looked for some books on the subject in the club library. Finally, he found a book he could understand. There was a description of just the poison he wanted, aconitine. It was quick and painless. He went to a chemist's and explained that the poison was for one of his dogs. 'It has rabies,¹ very dangerous,' he explained. The chemist understood completely.

He bought a pretty little silver box and put the poison pill inside it.

Lord Arthur arrived at his aunt's house. 'I've brought you a cure for your indigestion, Aunt,' he said.

'How kind you are! I'll take it immediately,' his aunt replied.

'No, Lady Clem!' cried Lord Arthur, holding her hand. 'You must take it when you have indigestion next. When will that be?'

'Before the end of the month, unfortunately,' his aunt told him.

Lord Arthur said goodbye to his aunt and left her house feeling happy.

That evening he told Sybil that he could not marry her. She must be patient and trust him.

'Everything will be all right,' he told her.

Early the next morning he left for Venice.

1. **rabies** : a fatal disease that dogs and other animals carry. It can kill humans if they are bitten.



Go back to the text

1 Comprehension

Match the answers to the questions.

Questions

1. What is the terrible prophecy in Lord Arthur's hand?
2. Why can't he marry Sybil?
3. When can he marry Sybil?
4. Why must he kill someone?

Answers

- a. He might kill someone at any moment.
- b. After he has killed someone.
- c. He has no choice; it is his duty.
- d. He will kill someone.



2 How does Lord Arthur describe Sybil Merton?

3 Why did Lord Arthur choose Lady Clementina Beauchamp as his victim? Complete the list of reasons.

- a. He was not a genius, so he had no enemies.
- b.
- c.

4 Vocabulary

'Lord Arthur had a strong sense of duty'. Match the words below to their definitions.

- | | | |
|---------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. duty | 2. principles | 3. sacrifice |
| 4. sin | 5. common sense | |

- a. A natural ability to make good judgements and to behave in a practical and sensible way.
- b. Something you think should be done because you believe it is right.
- c. A general belief that you have about the way you should behave.
- d. Something important or valuable you are prepared to lose to obtain something else.
- e. An action that people consider morally wrong.

PET 5 For each question, complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first, using no more than three words.

- 0 Lord Arthur preferred a life of action rather than thought.
In Lord Arthur's opinion, action *was better than* thought.
- 1 Mr Podgers' prediction changed Lord Arthur's life.
Lord Arthur's life by Mr Podgers' prediction.
- 2 Lord Arthur could not marry Sybil Merton until he had committed a murder.
When Lord Arthur had committed a murder,
Sybil Merton.
- 3 'I should leave London for a short time.'
'The best thing for me
London for a short time.
- 4 The advantage with the poison aconitine was that it was quick and painless.
The poison aconitine it was quick but also painless.

Before you read

- 1 In Part Five Lady Clementina dies, but Lord Arthur is not happy. Can you imagine why?



PART FIVE

Venice



Lord Arthur met his brother, Lord Surbiton, in Venice. The two young men spent two wonderful weeks there together. They went up and down the city's canals in gondolas; they ate in fine restaurants; they talked and laughed while they sat in the Piazza.¹ However, Lord Arthur was not happy. Every day he bought *The Times* expecting to see Lady Clementina's name in the obituary columns. Every day he was disappointed. Had some accident happened to her? Sybil also worried him, but for a completely different reason. Her letters were full of love, but they were also very sad. He began to think that their separation was forever. One morning, at the

1. **the Piazza** : (here) St Mark's square.



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hotel, the owner brought him some telegrams. One of them changed his mood.¹ His plan had been successful, Lady Clementina had died.

He decided to return to London immediately. He sent a telegram to Sybil telling her to prepare for his return in a few days' time. He received a letter from Lady Clementina's solicitor.² The old lady had died after dinner with friends. She had gone home early complaining of indigestion. The solicitor also informed Lord Arthur that Lady Clementina had left him her little house in Curzon Street. How kind of the old lady! For a moment he felt angry with Mr Podgers. It was after all his responsibility. Then he thought of Sybil. He had done his duty, and this gave him peace and comfort. When he arrived in London, he was a happy man.

When Lord Arthur saw Sybil, she asked him to promise never to leave her again. Their wedding day was fixed for 7th June. Life was bright and beautiful again, and Lord Arthur felt the same happiness he had felt before Mr Podgers' prophecy.

One day, he and Sybil were tidying the old lady's house in Curzon Street when Sybil found something.

'What have you found, Sybil?' said Lord Arthur happily.

'This lovely little silver box, Arthur. Isn't it beautiful? Can I have it?'

Lord Arthur was shocked. He had almost forgotten about what he had done. What a strange coincidence that Sybil was the first person to remind him!

'Of course you can have it, Sybil. I gave it to poor Lady Clem.'

1. **mood** : state of mind.

2. **solicitor** : a type of lawyer who gives legal advice.



Lord Arthur Savile's *Crime*

'Can I have the sweet inside, too?'

'Sweet, Sybil? What do you mean?' replied Lord Arthur, now pale and worried.

'Arthur, what's the matter? You look so white!'

Lord Arthur quickly went to Sybil and took the box. Inside was the pill. Lady Clementina had died a natural death! He had not murdered anyone.

In despair, he threw the pill into the fire, and asked Sybil to postpone the wedding a second time.



Go back to the text

1 Comprehension

Answer the following questions.

- What did Lord Arthur and his brother do while they were in Venice?
- How did he find out his aunt Lady Clementina had died?
- What did Lady Clementina's solicitor tell Lord Arthur in his letter?
- What did Sybil find in the house?
- What must Lord Arthur do when he discovers Lady Clementina died a natural death?

PET 2 Read one of the letters Sybil wrote to Lord Arthur in Venice then read the statements on the next page.

My dearest Arthur,

Your decision to postpone our wedding was a terrible shock to me. You told me on the night before you left that I must be patient and that I must trust you. I try and I try. It is not easy because you have explained nothing. What can I think? Do you still love me?

I will wait for you, but as the days pass I do not know when I will see you again. My parents were very sad at the news. Father, in particular, is angry and wants me to end our engagement. I told him that I will not do this because I love you and trust you. I hope I am right.

Please take care and write to me soon.

All my love,

Sybil

Look at the statements below and decide if each statement is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, mark A. If it is incorrect, mark B.

- | | A | B |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Sybil is not surprised by Lord Arthur's decision. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Sybil will try to do what Lord Arthur told her. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Sybil understands what Lord Arthur has done. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Sybil's father wants his daughter to be patient. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Sybil will do what her father wants. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3 Which telegram did Lord Arthur send Sybil?


- a. COMING TO LONDON. OUR PROBLEMS SOLVED. WILL YOU MARRY ME?
- b. STAYING IN VENICE FOR TWO MORE WEEKS. OUR PROBLEMS SOLVED. WILL YOU MARRY ME?
- c. COMING TO LONDON. CAN'T SEE YOU IMMEDIATELY. PLEASE BE PATIENT.

4 The good and bad moments of life are sometimes called 'life's ups and downs'. What are Lord Arthur's ups and downs in Part Five?

5 **Comedy**

In Part Five, Lady Clementina dies of indigestion, but not because she took Lord Arthur's pill. This contributes to the comic effect. Are there any other events which are comic in the same way?

Before you read

-  **1** Lord Arthur has the same problems he had in Part Four: who must he kill, and how? Listen to the beginning of Part Six and answer the questions.
- a. Who will he kill?
- b. How will he kill this person?



PART SIX

The Clock

S

sybil Merton's parents were very unhappy at the second postponement of the wedding. Sybil's mother tried to persuade her daughter not to see Lord Arthur again. Sybil loved her mother but she trusted Lord Arthur completely and could never consider a life without him. Lord Arthur, too, was terribly disappointed. For several days he did not know what to do. Poison had not worked. Dynamite — something explosive — was the only solution.

So, he checked his list of names and decided to blow up ¹ his uncle, the Dean ² of Chichester. The Dean was a man of culture and had an impressive collection of clocks, ancient and modern. Lord Arthur thought that this hobby was an excellent opportunity for the murder. But where could he find an explosive clock?



1. **blow up** : kill with an explosion.
2. **Dean** : an important priest in the Church of England and Roman Catholic Church.

Lord Arthur Savile's *Crime*

Suddenly, he thought of his young Russian friend, Count Rouvaloff. They had met at one of Lady Windermere's parties. The Russian was in England to study, but Lord Arthur knew that his friend had strong revolutionary ideas. Many people suspected that Rouvaloff was a secret agent. 'He's the right man,' Lord Arthur thought.

One morning Lord Arthur visited Rouvaloff in Bloomsbury, where the Russian lived. 'So you've become interested in politics?' asked Count Rouvaloff. Lord Arthur replied that he had no interest in politics at all. 'I want your help,' said Lord Arthur. 'I need some explosives.'

The Count looked at him with surprise. He then wrote an address on a piece of paper. 'Scotland Yard¹ would be very happy to have this address,' Rouvaloff said.

'They won't have it,' replied Lord Arthur, shaking his friend's hand. He said goodbye. In the street, Lord Arthur looked at the piece of paper. His next destination was Soho.²

Shortly after, he reached Soho and walked down Greek Street. He saw a small, green house. Lord Arthur knocked on the door. It was opened by a German called Winckelkopf.

'Good morning,' said Lord Arthur. 'My name is Mr Robert Smith. Count Rouvaloff gave me your name. I need an explosive clock.'

'Pleased to meet you, Lord Arthur,' the man replied. 'I saw you at one of Lady Windermere's parties.'

Herr Winckelkopf offered Lord Arthur some excellent German wine. 'Who do you want to kill?' he asked.

'The Dean of Chichester.'

'Oh, dear! I didn't think you had strong views against religion.'

1. **Scotland Yard** : Headquarters of the Metropolitan Police, London's police force.

2. **Soho** : an area in central London.



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'I don't,' said Lord Arthur. 'I know nothing about religion. The question is purely personal.'

The German showed Lord Arthur a small piece of dynamite and a pretty little clock.

'Perfect!' cried Lord Arthur. 'How does it work?'

'That is my secret,' answered Winckelkopf. 'You tell me when you want it to explode and I'll set¹ it for you.'

'Friday at noon,' said Lord Arthur. 'The Dean is always at home at that time.'

Lord Arthur asked the price. The German accepted payment only for the dynamite, the clock and the transport to the Dean's house. 'And for your trouble?' asked Lord Arthur.

1. **set** : adjust a clock to a particular time and date.



The Clock

'I don't work for money; I live for my art,' the German said.

Lord Arthur waited for Friday in great excitement.

Finally the day arrived. At twelve o'clock, Lord Arthur waited in his club for news of an explosion, and the Dean of Chichester's death. The news did not come.

Lord Arthur was very disappointed. The next day he visited Herr Winckelkopf. The German apologised. 'Quality is such a problem these days,' he said.

Two days later while at home his mother showed him a letter she had received from Chichester. 'Your cousin Jane writes such amusing letters!' she said.

Lord Arthur read this letter from the Dean of Chichester's daughter.

My dearest Aunt,

Thank you for the material you sent me for my dressmaking. How kind you are!

What fun we have had this week. Last Thursday some unknown person sent my father a pretty little clock. It arrived from London. The sender is probably someone who admires my father. We put the clock on the mantelpiece in the library. Can you believe that it makes little explosions? We think it is probably a very original type of alarm clock. My little brother, Reggie, has bought some gunpowder¹ and plays with it all day. Daddy is a bit irritated by the noise!

Do you think Arthur would like one for a wedding present?

Daddy sends his love and so do my brothers, James and Reggie. Please give my regards to my cousin Arthur.

Your affectionate niece,²

Jane

1. **gunpowder** : an explosive substance.

2. **niece** : the daughter of someone's brother or sister.

Go back to the text

PET 1 Comprehension

Read the questions below and mark the correct letter – A, B, C or D.

- 1 Why did Lord Arthur decide to kill his uncle, the Dean of Chichester?
 - A He did not like him.
 - B He had strong ideas about religion.
 - C For the same reasons he had chosen Lady Clementina.
 - D The Dean had many enemies.

- 2 Lord Arthur decided to use an explosive clock because
 - A his uncle had an impressive collection of clocks.
 - B his uncle's hobby was a good opportunity for Lord Arthur to murder him.
 - C it was easy to find.
 - D he thought it was an original idea.

- 3 What was the connection between Count Rouvaloff, Herr Winckelkopf and Lady Windermere?
 - A All three were friends of Lord Arthur.
 - B Lady Windermere had invited them to one of her parties.
 - C All three had revolutionary ideas.
 - D All three were members of Lord Arthur's club.

- 4 Herr Winckelkopf did not want to be paid for
 - A taking the clock to Chichester.
 - B preparing the clock to explode.
 - C the wine he gave Lord Arthur.
 - D keeping information from the police.

- 5 According to Winckelkopf, why was the attempt unsuccessful?
 - A The materials used were of poor quality.
 - B His work had been of poor quality.
 - C The clock had been taken to the wrong address.
 - D The Dean was suspicious of the clock.

6 What happened to the clock?

- A It was used as a toy.
B It was used as an alarm clock.
C It was not used.
D It was destroyed.

2 What does Rouvaloff ask about politics and what does Winckelkopf say to Lord Arthur about religion?

3 What is Lord Arthur's reply to both?

4 **Writing**

Sybil has written a letter to a close friend. Continue the letter below. Tell Emily:

- what Lord Arthur decided to do
- what your parents want you to do
- what you will do

My dearest Emily,

I was, until yesterday, the happiest girl in London. I told you about Lord Arthur's decision to postpone our wedding and go to Venice.

...

...

...

What can I do? Do you think I am right?

Fondest regards,

Sybil

PART SEVEN

Destiny



Lord Arthur was desperate. He ran to his room, tears in his eyes. He had tried to commit murder, but he had failed both times. It was so difficult to be good, he thought. Perhaps he should not marry Sybil. He felt that he was not able to control his destiny.

That evening he went to his club. His brother was there with some friends, but Lord Arthur found their conversation boring. Later he left the club and walked down to the Thames. He sat by the river for hours. In the moonlight the city slowly became quiet.

At two o'clock he walked along the river. Everything was dark except for the dome of St Paul's Cathedral. In the darkness he saw the figure of a man. He was looking down into the river. Lord Arthur recognised the figure. It was Mr Podgers, the chiromantist!



Lord Arthur Savile's *Crime*

Lord Arthur stopped behind the fat little man. He had a brilliant idea. He took Mr Podgers' legs, and threw him into the River Thames below. Lord Arthur looked down into the dark water. He could only see the chiromantist's hat floating¹ down the river. Mr Podgers had gone. Lord Arthur was happy and immediately thought of Sybil.



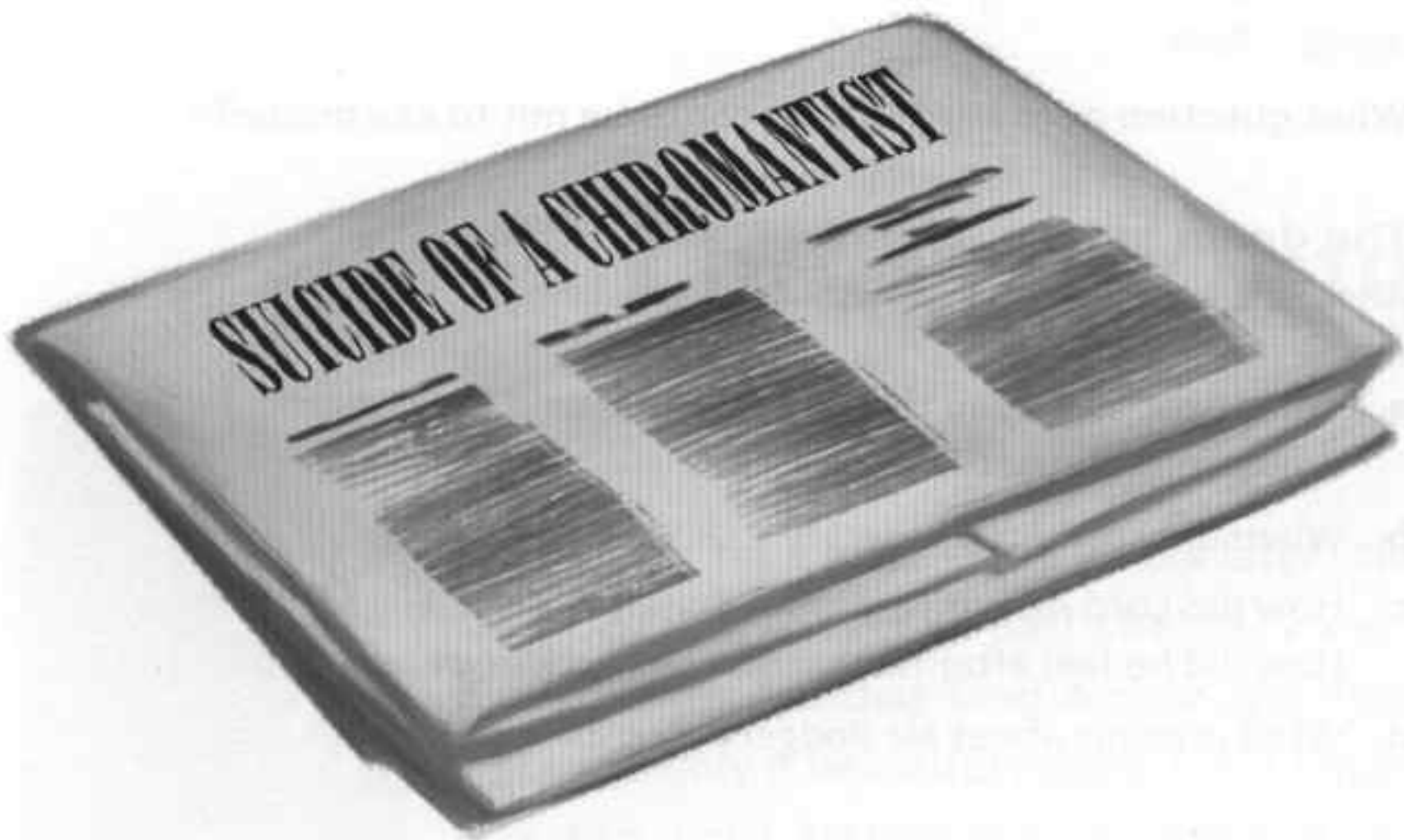
1. **floating** : staying on the surface of the river.

'Have you lost anything, sir?' asked a voice behind him. It was a policeman.

'Nothing important. Thank you, sergeant,' Lord Arthur replied, smiling.

He walked home.

Days of hope and fear followed. Was Mr Podgers dead? Was he alive? He wanted to know. The answer came. In his club, Lord Arthur saw this newspaper headline:



They had found Mr Podgers' body. Suicide was the obvious cause of death.

Lord Arthur ran out of his club. He went immediately to Sybil's house. When she saw him, she knew he had good news.

'Sybil,' cried Lord Arthur, 'let's get married tomorrow!'

Go back to the text

1 Comprehension

Lord Arthur tries to be good but he says that 'it was so difficult...' How does Lord Arthur try to be 'good'? Choose from the following and discuss your ideas with a partner.

- He does not tell Sybil about 'the terrible prophecy'.
- He accepts the terrible prophecy and decides to kill someone to protect Sybil from future shame.
- He chooses distant members of his family as victims to avoid being a suspect for the crime.

2 What question does Lord Arthur continue not to ask himself?

3 The death of Mr Podgers

Answer the questions below.

- What exactly do you think Mr Podgers said to Lord Arthur at Lady Windermere's party?
- When did Lord Arthur decide to kill Mr Podgers?
- How did Lord Arthur feel immediately after killing Mr Podgers? How did he feel after he thought he had killed Lady Clementina?
- What is ironic about Mr Podgers' 'terrible prophecy'?

Before you read

1 Which of the following do you expect to find in the final part of the story? Discuss your ideas with your partner.

- Lord Arthur will marry Sybil, but be unhappy.
- Lord Arthur will marry Lady Flora, the Duchess of Paisley's daughter, and be very happy.
- Lord Arthur will marry Sybil and be very happy.
- Lord Arthur will never marry and regret what he has done.



PART EIGHT

The Wedding



he wedding took place three weeks later. The Dean of Chichester read the service. ¹ Everyone agreed that Lord Arthur and Sybil were not only a beautiful couple but a happy one, too. Lord Arthur had no regrets ² and



Sybil was a perfect partner. They loved each other greatly. Reality did not kill romance and so they always felt young.

Some years later Lady Windermere visited them. They now had two beautiful children, a boy and a girl. In the garden, Lady Windermere and Sybil were talking. 'Do you remember Mr Podgers?' Lady Windermere asked. 'What a horrible man he was!

1. **service** : religious ceremony.

2. **regrets** : feelings of sadness or shame.

Lord Arthur Savile's *Crime*

He wanted to borrow¹ money from me. He was an impostor, too. I never believed in chiromancy after him.'

'Never criticise chiromancy here, Lady Windermere,' Sybil replied. 'Arthur believes in it totally.'

'I don't believe it!' said Lady Windermere.

1. **borrow** : obtain something temporarily from somebody with the intention of returning it.



The Wedding

'Here he is now. You can ask him.' Sybil smiled at her husband.

'Lord Arthur, tell me why you believe in chiromancy,' demanded Lady Windermere.

'Because it gave me all the happiness of my life,' said Lord Arthur. 'It gave me Sybil,' he added.

'What nonsense!' cried Lady Windermere. 'I've never heard such nonsense in all my life.'



Go back to the text

1 Comprehension

Lord Arthur and Sybil are very happy. What are the reasons why?
You can give more than one answer.

- a. They have two beautiful children.
- b. The Dean of Chichester read their wedding service.
- c. They love each other and romance survives.

2 Mr Podgers was very unlucky. What were the reasons why?

- a. Lady Windermere did not like him anymore.
- b. He needed money.
- c. Lord Arthur believed in chiromancy.



3 To explain how 'chiromancy gave me Sybil', complete the three sentences below with the phrases a-c.

First, chiromancy told Lord Arthur that he had to kill someone, but
(1)

Second, to avoid (2), he decided to kill
someone.

Finally, (3), he was able to marry Sybil.

- a. this terrible surprise
- b. after this was done
- c. it did not tell him who or when

PET 4 Read the text below. For each question, mark the letter next to the correct word (A, B, C or D). There is an example (0) at the beginning.

At the end of the story Mr Podgers is a pathetic (0) Before his (1) he was probably in financial difficulties and, according to an important (2) like Lady Windermere, he asked for money. Lady Windermere also thought he was an impostor. Was he? On the one (3), he makes no mistakes. (4) he says at Lady Windermere's party seems to be true. On the other, it is possible that he knew (5) the lives of Lady Windermere's guests before (6) their palms. The (7) important prediction is, of course, about Lord Arthur. Does he really see a (8) murder or does his prophecy lead Lord Arthur to (9) it? Unfortunately for him, there is one prophecy that he did not see: he was Lord Arthur's (10)

His sudden (11) solves all the problems Lord Arthur has had (12) Lady Windermere's party.

- | | | | | |
|----|-----------|------------|-------------|---------------|
| 0 | A man | B picture | C figure | D palm reader |
| 1 | A die | B dead | C death | D loss |
| 2 | A one | B customer | C patient | D company |
| 3 | A part | B side | C hands | D hand |
| 4 | A Nothing | B Anything | C Something | D Everything |
| 5 | A at | B about | C from | D in |
| 6 | A read | B reading | C to read | D have read |
| 7 | A more | B most | C less | D as |
| 8 | A past | B latest | C last | D future |
| 9 | A commit | B make | C do | D have |
| 10 | A man | B target | C victim | D killer |
| 11 | A die | B dead | C died | D death |
| 12 | A since | B for | C from | D by |

Pseudo-Science in Late Victorian England

Queen Victoria's long reign (1837-1901) was a period of technological advance and social reform that transformed Britain and the life of its citizens. At the end of the nineteenth century, transport and communication had advanced and the motor car and telephone were only a few years away. However, during this same period of advance and change, three so-called 'pseudo¹-sciences' were particularly popular: phrenology, mesmerism and spiritualism. Phrenology stated that there was a relationship between facial features, in particular the size and shape of the head, and intellect. This gave more credibility to older, similar practices such as palm reading, which, to appear more scientific, became known as chiromancy. Palm readers or chiromantists developed ways of classifying the lines on the palm and interpreting their meaning. But why should a particular line be associated with the length of your life, for instance, rather than money, love or travel? And why should the shape or length of a line mean an unhappy childhood or true love in the future? Oscar Wilde's palm reader, or chiromantist, in 'Lord Arthur Savile's Crime' is a famous fictional example. Lady Windermere is very pleased with her chiromantist, Mr Podgers, who has told her she is in great danger. However, she does not appear too worried about how he was able to make this prediction; 'He told me he saw it in my little finger. Or was it on my palm?'

1. 'pseudo' [sju:dəu] : a prefix that means 'not real'. A 'pseudo-science' is a theory and practice that is not formed in a scientific way.



A lecture on phrenology.

Mesmerism was developed by the Viennese physician, Franz Mesmer, who gave the movement its name. Mesmer and his followers believed that certain people possessed a special power that could cure others; this power was released by looking into the eyes of another person or by touching them. Indeed, today we say that we are 'mesmerised' when our attention is held by something particularly interesting or exciting.

The third 'pseudo-science' that enjoyed immense popularity in Victorian England was spiritualism. The key idea behind this theory was that an individual with special powers, a spiritualist or 'medium', could communicate with the spirits of the dead for other people. The participants sat around a table and tried to communicate with the spirits of their dead loved ones.

Belief in these pseudo-sciences was present at all levels of English society. Associations of working men and women regularly

organised meetings on the subjects, which were often attended by thousands of people. Queen Victoria used a medium to contact her dead husband, Prince Albert. The Prime Minister of England, W. E. Gladstone, said in 1884 that research by the spiritualist movement was 'the most important work being done in the world today'.

PET 1 For each question, mark the letter next to the correct answer – A, B, C or D.

- 1 Why were phrenology, mesmerism and spiritualism called 'pseudo-sciences'?
 - A Nobody believed in them.
 - B A lot of people believed in them.
 - C Critics did not understand them.
 - D Critics thought they were unscientific.

- 2 What did phrenology declare?
 - A It was possible to speak to the dead.
 - B It was possible to understand a person from the size and shape of his/her face.
 - C It was possible to hypnotise your enemies.
 - D It was possible to cure people.

- 3 Many palm readers called themselves chiromantists because
 - A it sounded more scientific.
 - B it was easier to understand what they did.
 - C they wanted to be distinguished from card readers.
 - D they wanted to be distinguished from spiritualists.

- 4 'I was mesmerised!' When would you say this in English?
 - A after a hard day at work or school
 - B after an operation in hospital
 - C after a boring lesson at school
 - D after a great concert



The Sphinx
Without a Secret

Before you read

1 Vocabulary

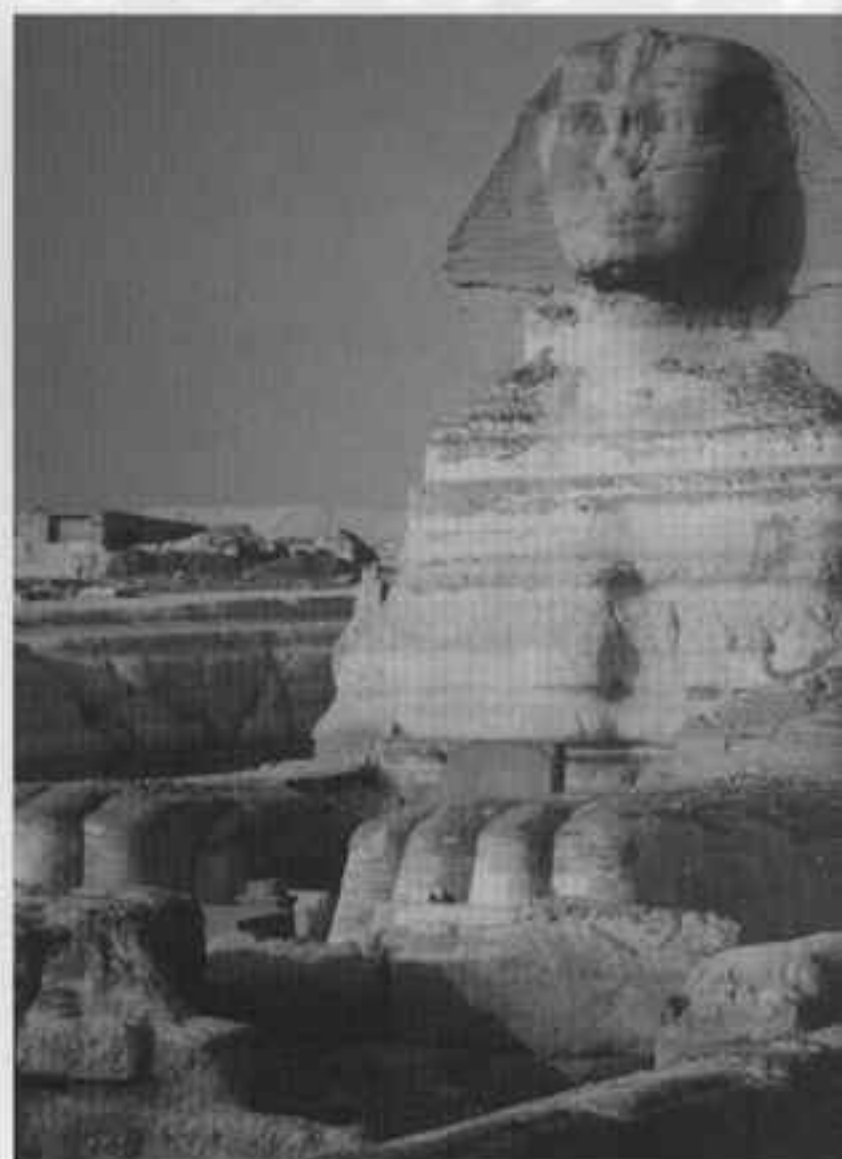
Look at these definitions of 'sphinx' and 'sphinx-like'.

Sphinx: a lion with a human head; in Greek mythology a woman with wings and the body of a lion. A mysterious creature.

Sphinx-like: a person is 'sphinx-like' if they are mysterious or secretive; a person who is difficult to understand because he or she has secrets.



A marble sphinx.



The Great Sphinx of Giza, in Egypt.

After reading these definitions, why is the title 'The Sphinx Without a Secret' strange? Choose a or b.

- a. A sphinx with a secret is not a real sphinx.
- b. A sphinx without a secret is not a real sphinx.

 2 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Part One. For each question, put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

1 The narrator was sitting

- A outside a café in Paris.
- B inside a café in Paris.
- C outside a restaurant in London.

2 The narrator watched

- A the poor.
- B the rich.
- C the rich and the poor.

3 The narrator last met Lord Murchison

- A when they were at school together.
- B nearly ten years before.
- C when they were in the army together.

4 Which is *not* a reason why the narrator liked Lord Murchison in the past?

- A Lord Murchison was frank.
- B Lord Murchison was confused.
- C Lord Murchison was honourable.

5 What does the narrator think is the cause of his friend's problems?

- A money
- B work
- C love



PART ONE

The Mysterious Lady



One afternoon I was sitting outside a café in Paris. I watched human life pass by, the rich and the poor, the elegant and the shabby.¹ Suddenly someone called my name. I turned round and saw Lord Murchison. We had been friends at Oxford University nearly ten years before. We had not met since then. I had liked him greatly. He was good-looking, good fun and honourable. He was also honest and frank. But now he looked anxious and confused. I tried to understand why. I supposed that the reason was probably a woman. I asked him if he was married.

1. the shabby : poorly dressed people.



The Sphinx Without a *Secret*

'I don't understand women enough,' he answered.

'My dear Gerald,' I said, 'you have to love women, not understand them.'

'I can't love if I can't trust,' he replied.

'Gerald, I believe you have a mystery in your life, and you must tell me about it,' I said.

'Let's go for a drive,' Gerald answered, 'there are too many people here.'

We went to find a carriage. ¹ 'No, not a yellow carriage,' Lord Murchison said, 'any other colour.'

We found a dark green one and went to a quiet restaurant.

'Tell me your mystery,' I said.

He took a small leather case out of his pocket and gave it to me. I opened it. Inside there was a photograph of a woman. With her long hair and fur coat, she looked like a clairvoyant. ²

'Is that a face I can trust?' he asked.

I examined the photograph carefully. The face had a secret, but was this secret good or bad? Her beauty seemed to be the product of many mysteries.

I wanted to know all about her. After dinner Lord Murchison told me this story.

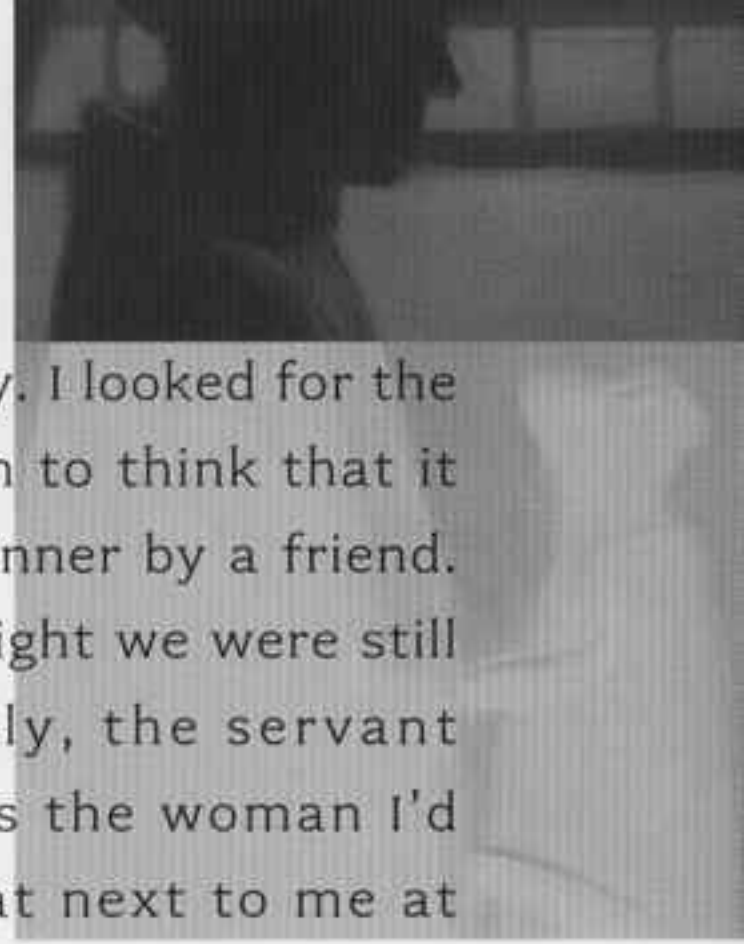
'One evening,' he said, 'I was walking down Bond Street. ³ It was five o'clock and the traffic was terrible. For some reason a little yellow carriage attracted my attention. I saw inside the face I showed you earlier. It fascinated me immediately. I

1. **carriage** : 

2. **clairvoyant** : a person who people believe has special powers, especially to predict the future.

3. **Bond Street** : a busy central London street famous for its fashionable shops.

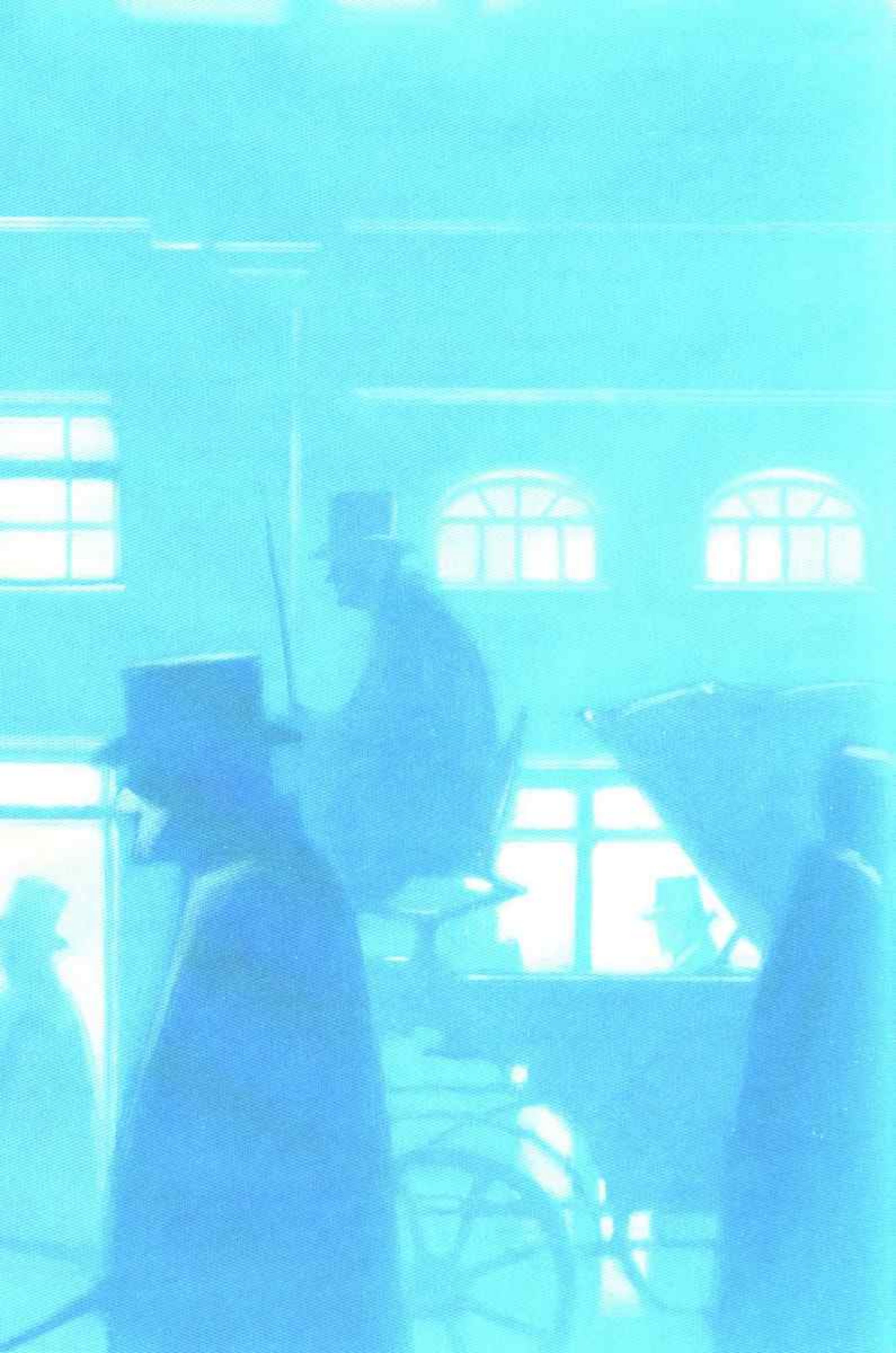
The Mysterious Lady

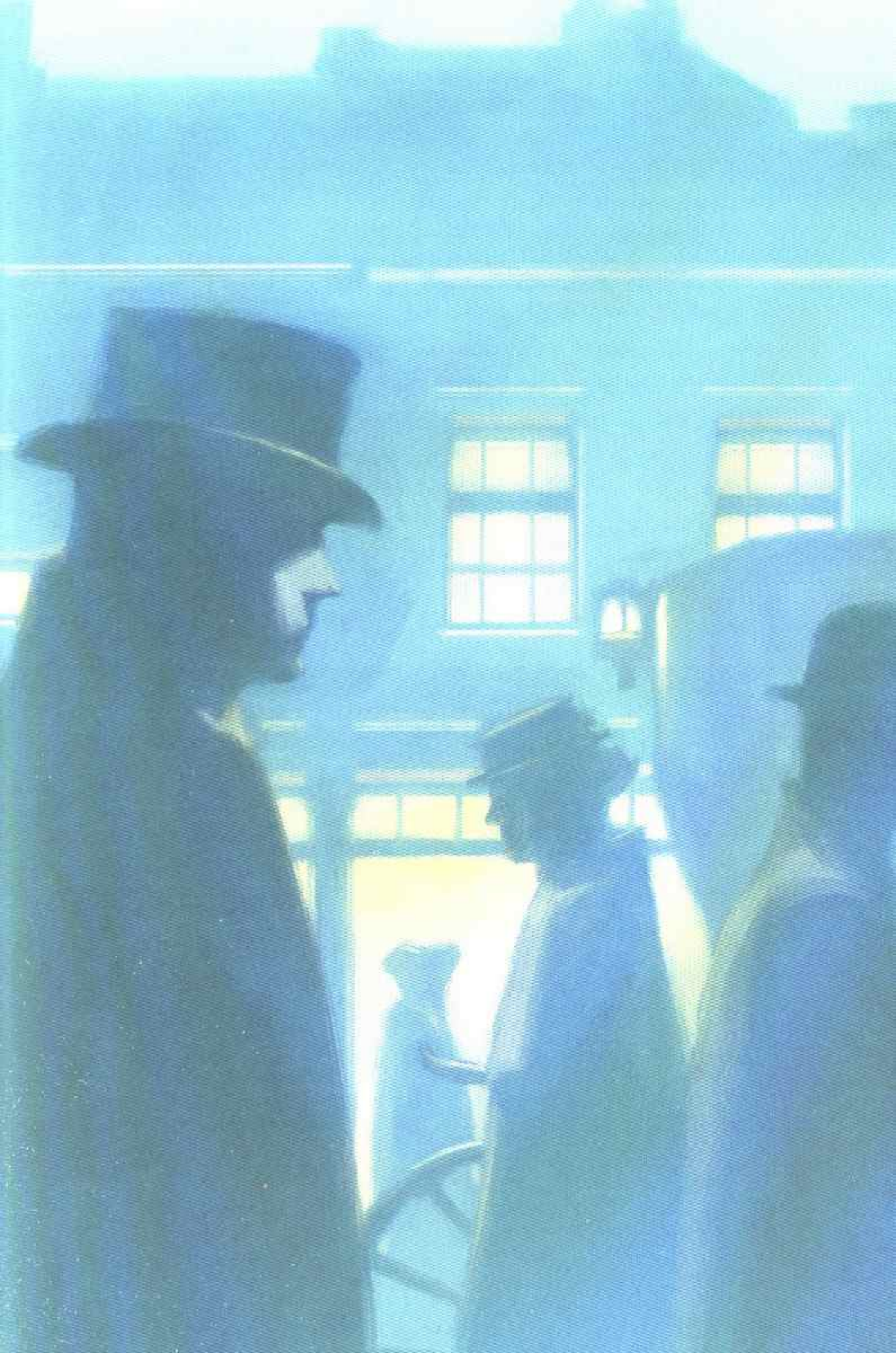


thought of it all that night, and all the next day. I looked for the yellow carriage, but I couldn't find it. I began to think that it was a dream. A week later I was invited to dinner by a friend. Dinner was at eight o'clock, but at half past eight we were still waiting to start. A guest was late. Finally, the servant announced the arrival of Lady Alroy. It was the woman I'd looked for the week before! Luckily, she sat next to me at dinner. I told her that I'd seen her in Bond Street. "Please, don't talk so loudly," she said. After this terrible start, she spoke very little. When she did speak, her voice was low. I thought she was afraid of someone listening to her. I fell madly in love with her. I was excited by her air of mystery. After dinner, I asked her if I could see her again. She hesitated and looked around. In a low voice she replied, "Yes; tomorrow at a quarter to five." I asked my host¹ for information about this mysterious lady. All I was told was that Lady Alroy was a widow² and lived alone in a beautiful house in Park Lane.³

'The next day I arrived at her home exactly on time, but her butler⁴ told me she'd just gone out. I went to my club unhappy and confused. I decided to write her a letter. Could I see her another afternoon? I had no answer for several days. At last I received a short note: "Dear... I will be at home... . Please do not write to me here... ." The note ended with this instruction: "Please do not write to me here again; I will explain when I see you." I saw her that Sunday. She was charming. However, when I was leaving she repeated her instruction to me and told me to

1. **host** : the person who invited Lord Murchison to dinner.
2. **widow** : a woman whose husband has died.
3. **Park Lane** : an area of London where rich people lived.
4. **butler** : the most important male servant in a house.





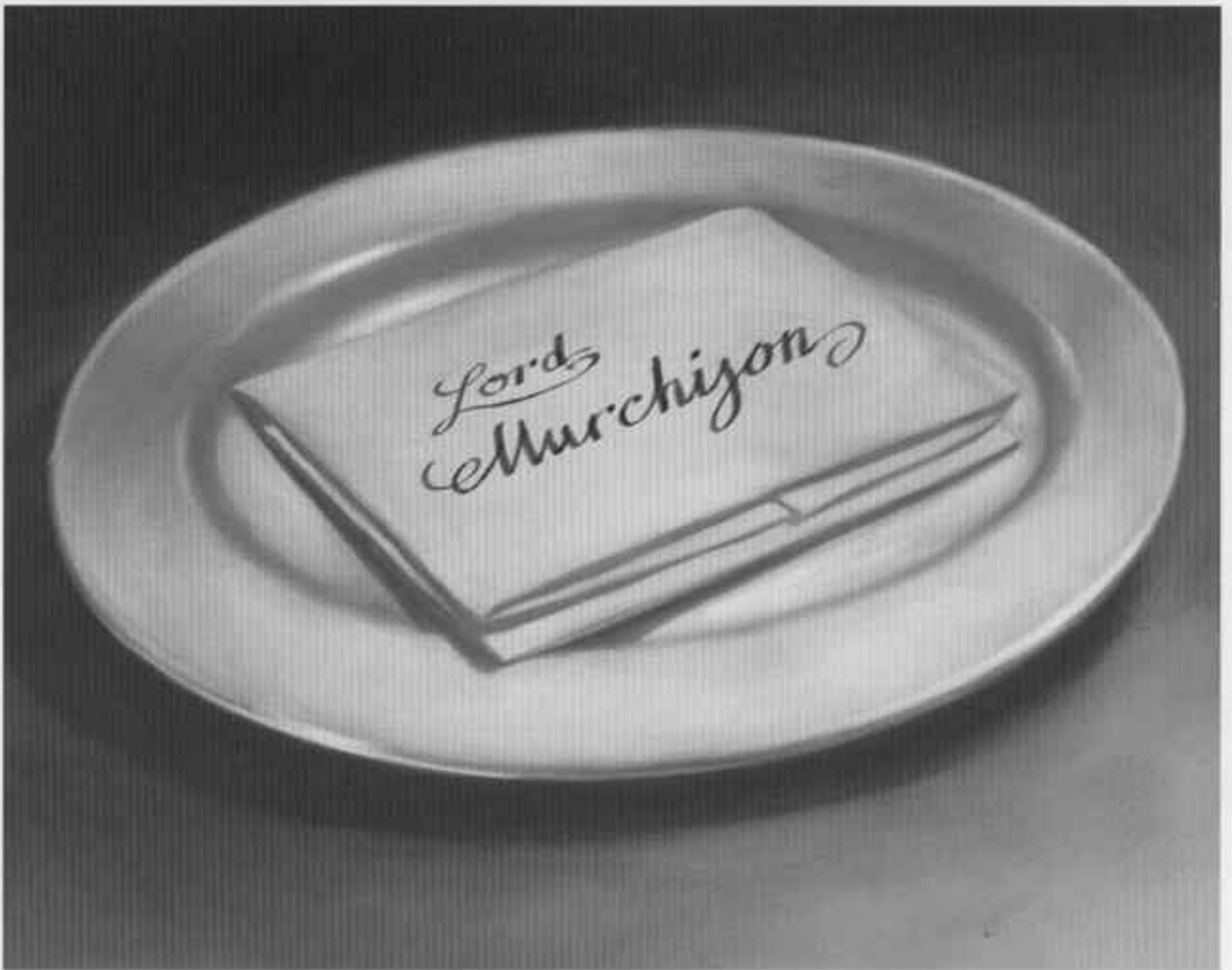
The Sphinx Without a *Secret*

send any letters to a local library. "There are reasons why I can't receive letters in my own house."

'For the next few months I saw her regularly. Her air of mystery never left her. I tried to understand her secret but could find no answer. Finally I decided to ask her to marry me. I was tired of my secret visits and the letters I sent her. I wrote her a letter; I wanted to see her the following Monday at six o'clock. She answered yes. I was incredibly happy. I was deeply in love with her. Now I know it was because of her mystery or maybe not. No, that isn't true. It was the woman I loved.'

'Did you discover her secret?' I asked.

'Yes, I think so, but you must decide for yourself,' he answered.



Go back to the text

1 Comprehension

The story has two time periods: the time when the narrator meets Lord Murchison and events before this. Put these events from Part One (a-i) into their correct order in the two time periods.

| Before the narrator meets Lord Murchison | When the narrator meets Lord Murchison |
|--|--|
| 1. | 7. |
| 2. | 8. |
| 3. | 9. |
| 4. | |
| 5. | |
| 6. | |

- a. Lord Murchison meets Lady Alroy during dinner at a friend's house.
- b. Lord Murchison visits Lady Alroy's home in Park Lane, but she is not there.
- c. Lord Murchison tells the narrator that he does not want to use a yellow carriage.
- d. Lord Murchison receives a note from Lady Alroy.
- e. Lord Murchison asks Lady Alroy if he can see her again.
- f. Lord Murchison and the narrator go to a restaurant.
- g. Lord Murchison asks Lady Alroy to marry him.
- h. Lord Murchison sees Lady Alroy in a yellow carriage in Bond Street.
- i. Lord Murchison shows the narrator a picture of a woman.

- 2 'Her air of mystery never left her.' What questions about Lady Alroy have no answers? Complete the questions using the words in brackets.

- a. Why did she ask Lord Murchison
 ?
 (low voice)
- b. Why did she want Lord Murchison
 ?
 (local library/not home)

3 Times

What happened at these times on different days?

| Time | Event |
|-----------|-------|
| 5 o'clock | |
| 8 o'clock | |
| 8.30 p.m. | |
| 4.45 p.m. | |
| 6 o'clock | |

Before you read

- 1 In Part Two, Lord Murchison leaves Lady Alroy and never sees her again. What do you think is the reason? Choose from a, b or c. Discuss your ideas with another reader.
- He suspects she has a lover.
 - She tells him she does not love him.
 - He realises he does not love her.



PART TWO

The Secret



On the Monday of our appointment I was walking to her house. To arrive more quickly I walked through a poor district. Suddenly I saw her in front of me. She stopped outside a house, took out a key, opened the door, and went in. "Here is the mystery," I said to myself. I looked around. Her handkerchief was in front of the door, on the doorstep. I picked it up and put it in my pocket. What should I do now? I decided to return to her house later that evening. At six o'clock I visited her. She was as beautiful as ever. "I've been at home all day," she said. I pulled out her handkerchief and gave it to her. "You dropped this outside a house today, Lady Alroy," I said calmly. She looked at me in terror. I asked her what she was doing there. "You have no right

11

The Sphinx Without a *Secret*

to ask me,” she replied. I told her that I wanted to marry her. “That gives me a right,” I said. She began to cry. “You must tell me,” I demanded. I told her that she went to the house to meet someone. She denied it,¹ but I continued saying terrible things to her. Finally I left her house. She wrote me a letter, but I sent it back without reading it. I went to Norway. I had to go away. One month later I read that she’d died of pneumonia. I loved that woman so much!

‘Did you go back to the house in that street?’ I asked.

‘Yes. One day I went back to the street. I had to know. There I met the owner of the house. She was a respectable woman. She told me she let² rooms and one room was free. “I haven’t seen the lady who rents them for three months,” she told me. “Is this the woman?” I asked her, showing her the photograph I have shown you. She told me it was. I told her that the lady was dead. “What did she do here? Did she meet anyone?” I asked. The woman told me she met no one. “She sat and read books, sir. Sometimes she had tea.”

‘Do you believe the woman was telling the truth?’

‘Yes, I do,’ I answered.

‘But why did Lady Alroy go there?’

‘My dear Gerald,’ I answered, ‘Lady Alroy was a woman who loved mystery. She rented the room for the pleasure of going there secretly. She imagined she was a heroine in a story. But she herself was simply a sphinx without a secret.’

He looked at the photograph again. ‘I’m not sure,’ he said.

1. **denied it** : said that it was not true.

2. **let** : allowed others to use property in return for money. The owner lets his/her property and the user (or ‘tenant’) pays (or ‘rents’).



Go back to the text

PET 1 Comprehension

Decide if each statement is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, mark A. If it is incorrect, mark B.

- | | A | B |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Lord Murchison had planned to wait for Lady Alroy outside the house in the poor part of the city. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Lady Alroy knocked on the door. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Lady Alroy did not notice that she had dropped her handkerchief. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Lord Murchison followed Lady Alroy back to her home in Park Lane. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Lady Alroy was very worried when she saw her handkerchief. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Lord Murchison wanted to be told the truth. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Lady Alroy admitted that she had lied. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 Lady Alroy never managed to explain what she had done before her death. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2 The owner of the house told Lord Murchison three things about Lady Alroy. The first has been done for you. What were the other two things?

- a. *She last saw Lady Alroy three months before.*.....
- b.
- c.

3 The narrator tells his friend that Lady Alroy was 'a sphinx without a secret'. What does he mean? What do you think about Lady Alroy? Discuss your ideas with your partner.

The duration form

'I have not seen the lady who rents (the rooms) for three months.'

'We had been friends at Oxford University. We had not met since then.'

The duration form expresses how long an event lasts, either:

- from a moment in the past to the present (the Present Perfect: have + past participle). Example:

'I have not seen the lady who rents (the rooms) for three months.'

or

- from one moment in the past to another more recent moment in the past (had + Past Perfect). Example:

'We had been friends at Oxford University. We had not met since then.'

With both forms we use *since* to introduce the date or moment the event/state started and *for* to express the quantity of time (hours, weeks, years, etc.). For example: Imagine it is 5 p.m. You last ate at 1 p.m. You can say:

- *I haven't eaten since 1 p.m.*

or

- *I haven't eaten for four hours.*

PET 4 For each question, complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first, using no more than three words. There are two examples (0) and (00).

- 0 The narrator arrived in Paris a few days before he met Lord Murchison.

When the narrator met Lord Murchison, *he had been* in Paris for a few days.

- 00 'Ah, Paris! I fell in love with it during my first visit here ten years ago.'
'I *have been* in love with Paris for ten years.'

- 1 Lord Murchison first saw Lady Alroy in Bond Street one evening. Several months later he asked her to marry him.

When Lord Murchison asked Lady Alroy to marry him, he for several months.

- 2 'The room was last occupied three months ago.'

No-one has occupied three months.

- 3 'I found your handkerchief outside that house at three o'clock.'

'I have had three o'clock.'

- 4 The narrator met Lord Murchison for the first time after nearly ten years.

The narrator Lord Murchison for nearly ten years.

5 Pictures

Choose one of the pictures that illustrates 'The Sphinx Without a Secret'.

- Describe what you can see to your partner.
- Explain what the picture means to the story.

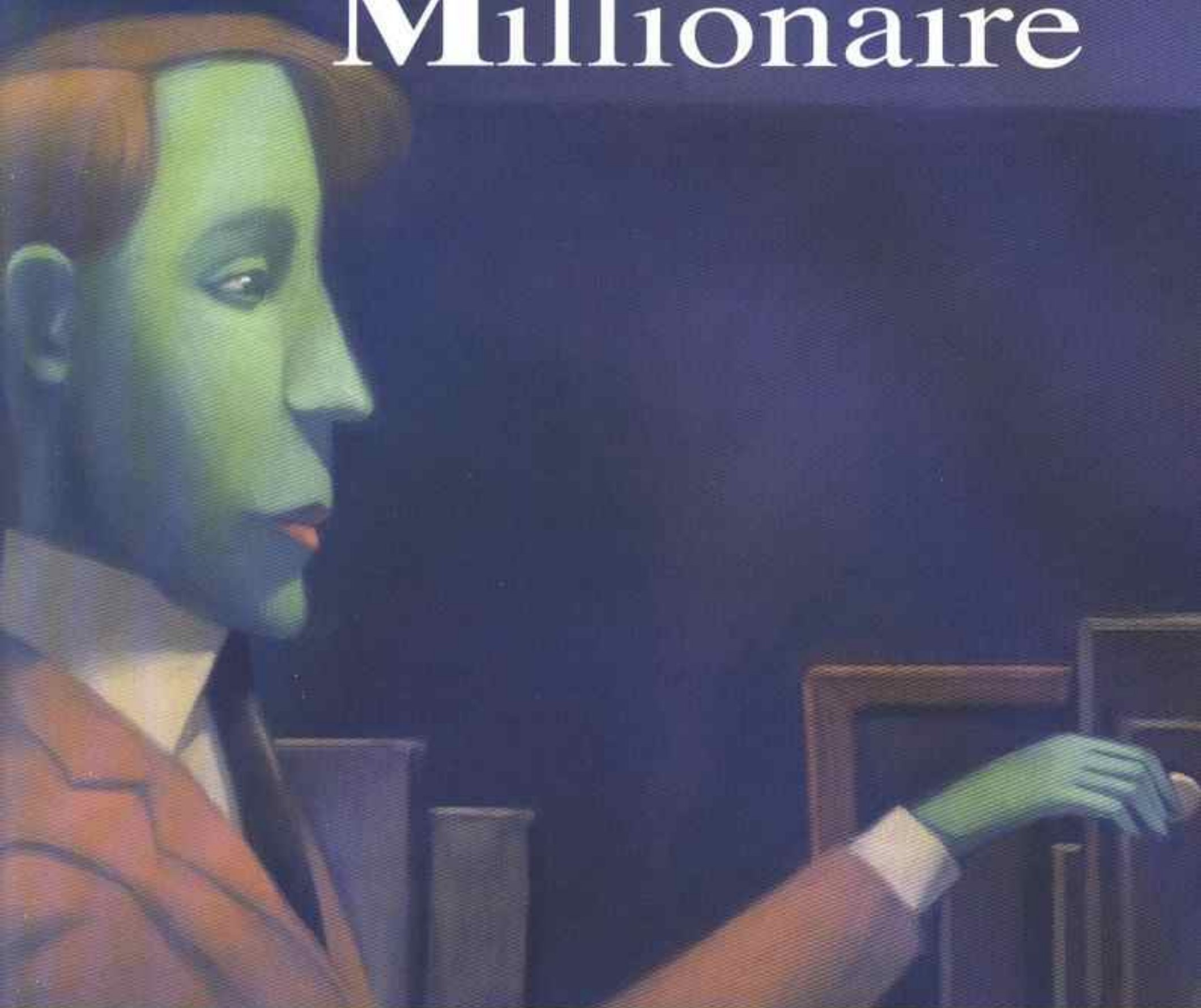
6 Vocabulary – Word puzzle

Find ten words associated with the story using these clues. The first one has been done for you.

- A creature from mythology; half woman, half lion. The narrator uses this word to describe Lady Alroy.
- The narrator and Lord Murchison went to this university.
- The cause of Lady Alroy's death.
- Lord Murchison went here after leaving Lady Alroy's house for the last time.
- The colour of the carriage.
- Lord Murchison's first name.
- The city where the writer and Lord Murchison met.
- Lady Alroy dropped this outside the house in the poor part of the city.
- The name of the street where Lord Murchison first saw Lady Alroy.
- Where Lord Murchison sent his letters.



The Model Millionaire

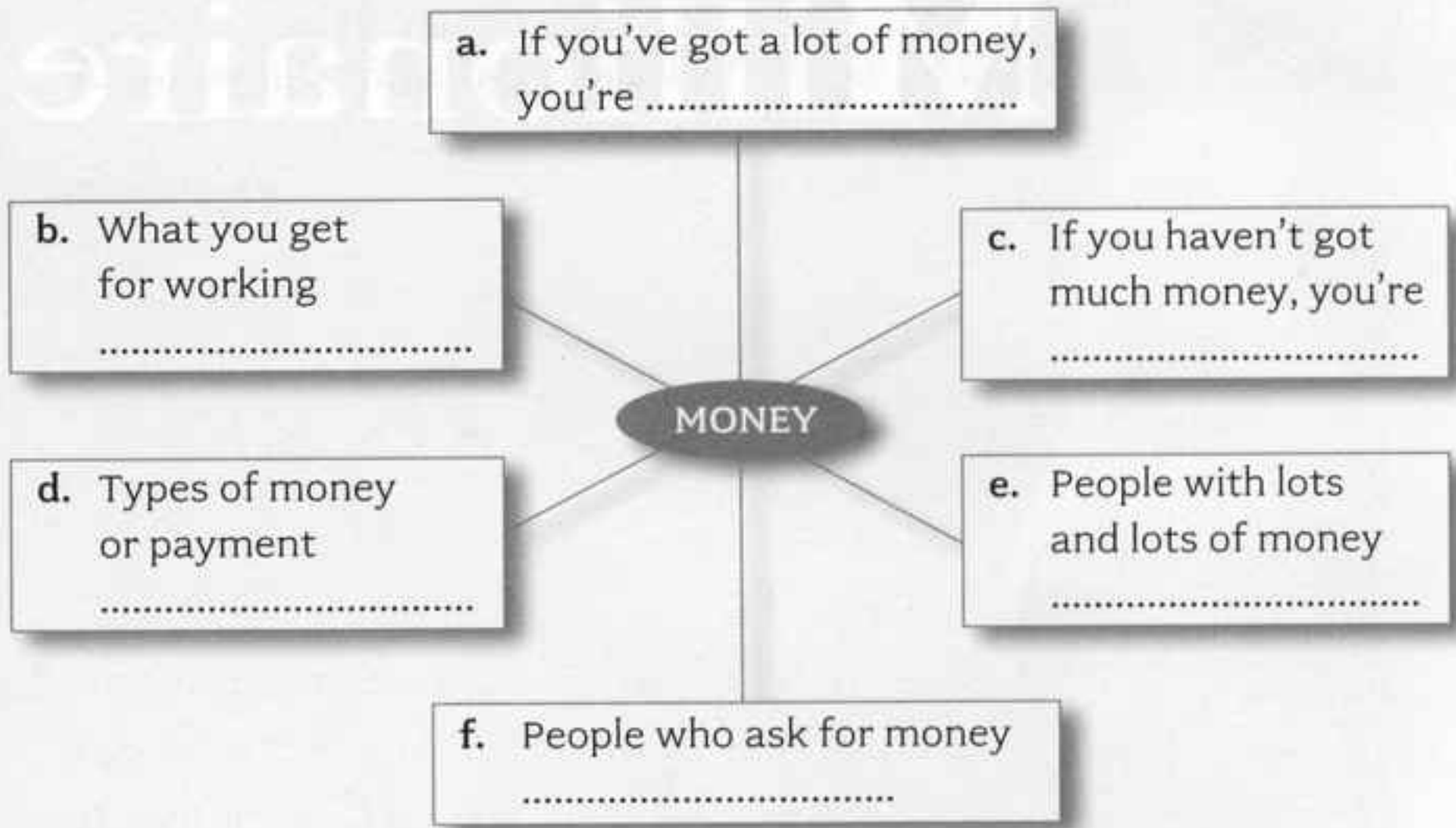


Before you read

1 Vocabulary

Put these words about money into the correct boxes in the spidergram.

rich salary credit card coins cheques bank notes
 poor beggars millionaires



2 Now complete these sentences with some of the words you used in exercise 1.

- a. You have to be to live in that part of the city. House prices are very expensive.
- b. In the present economic situation many families feel and they do not spend much.
- c. The bank robber stole more than £200,000 in and
- d. Can I pay by or ?
I haven't got enough cash.



PART ONE

Portrait of a Beggar



There is no point in being charming if you are not rich as well. Romance is a privilege for the rich. The poor should be practical. It is better to have a regular salary than be fascinating. These are the great truths of modern life. Hughie Erskine never understood them. Poor Hughie! He did not have a particularly clever mind. He never said anything brilliant or cruel. But he was extremely good-looking, with brown hair and grey eyes. He was as popular with men as with women. Unfortunately, he was unable to make money. His father had left him a sword¹ and some books. He had a small



1. sword:



The Model *Millionaire*

income ¹ from an aunt. His experiences of the business world had been unsuccessful. As a result, he was a pleasant young man with an attractive face and no profession.

To complicate things more, he was in love. Laura Merton was the daughter of a retired ² army colonel. She loved Hughie greatly. Together they made an attractive couple, but a couple without money. Laura's father liked Hughie, but he did not want them to marry because Hughie had no money. 'Come to me, my boy, when you have got ten thousand pounds,' the colonel told him.

One morning Hughie visited a friend, Alan Trevor. Trevor was a painter. Many people today are. But Trevor was also an artist, and artists are rare. He had red hair and a beard. He liked Hughie a lot. When Hughie came into the artist's studio, Trevor was finishing a life-size picture of a beggar. The beggar himself was standing in the corner of the studio.

'What an amazing model,' Hughie said quietly.

'Amazing?' Trevor shouted, 'he's unique! I'm very lucky to have him.'

'He looks so miserable,' said Hughie, 'but I suppose his face is his fortune.'

'Certainly,' replied Trevor, 'you don't want a beggar to look happy, do you?'

'How much do you give him for a sitting?' ³ Hughie asked.

'A shilling ⁴ for an hour.'

1. **income** : an amount of money received regularly.

2. **retired** : no longer working, living on a pension.

3. **sitting** : the time during which a person poses for an artist.

4. **shilling** : 5p, used in Britain until 1971.



The Model *Millionaire*

'And how much money do you earn for your pictures, Alan?'

'Oh, for this picture I'll earn two thousand!'

'Pounds?'

'Guineas,' Trevor answered. 'Painters, poets and doctors always get guineas!'

'I think your model should receive a percentage. He works as hard as you do,' Hughie said.

'Nonsense, nonsense!' Trevor replied. 'Now, sit down and be quiet. I'll be back in a moment.'



Portrait of a Beggar

The artist left the studio. The old beggar sat down for a moment. He looked so poor and unhappy. Hughie felt sorry for the man and decided to give him the only coin he had in his pocket. 'Poor man,' he thought, 'he needs it more than I do.' Hughie walked across the studio and gave the beggar the coin.

The old man was surprised and smiled at Hughie. 'Thank you, sir,' he said, 'thank you.'

Trevor returned. Hughie said goodbye and decided to spend the afternoon with Laura. She told him sweetly that he was stupid to give his money away. He had so little of it.



Go back to the text**1 Vocabulary**

Look at the title of the story. What do you think it means? Discuss your ideas with your partner.

2 Find the equivalent to these phrases in the first paragraph on page 95.

- a. being interesting
- b. not having problems with money
- c. being physically attractive

Which of these is the most important, according to the writer?

3 Complete these sentences summarising what the writer says are the 'great truths of modern life' by using an adjective only once.

- a. If you are, you can be
- b. If you are, you must be

**4 Characters**

Complete the following sentences about Hughie.

- a. Hughie was not
- b. He did not
- c. He never
- d. He could not

5 Hughie has another problem. In the three sentences below, find the incorrect fact.

- a. Laura's father did not want/wanted his daughter to marry Hughie.
- b. He thought that Hughie did not have enough/had a lot of money.
- c. Laura's father said, 'When you have the money, you can/cannot marry my daughter.'

6 Join phrases 1-5 with an appropriate phrase below (a-e) to make complete sentences. Use the following conjunctions: *but, and, when, because, so*.

- 1. 'The model works hard
- 2. Hughie Erskine had brown hair
- 3. The artist was finishing the portrait of the beggar
- 4. The beggar got one shilling an hour
- 5. Hughie gave the beggar the only coin he had

- a. Alan Trevor had red hair.
- b. Hughie came into the studio.
- c. he thought he needed more than he did.
- d. he should get more money.'
- e. Alan Trevor got 2,000 guineas a picture.

7 What do you think?

In what way is Alan Trevor a typical painter? In what important way is he different?

.....

.....

.....

Before you read



1 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Part Two. For each question, put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

1 Hughie met Alan again

- A at their club.
- B the next day.
- C later in Alan's studio.

2 The beggar

- A was angry with Hughie.
- B was very interested in Hughie.
- C wanted to see Hughie again.

3 Alan told the beggar

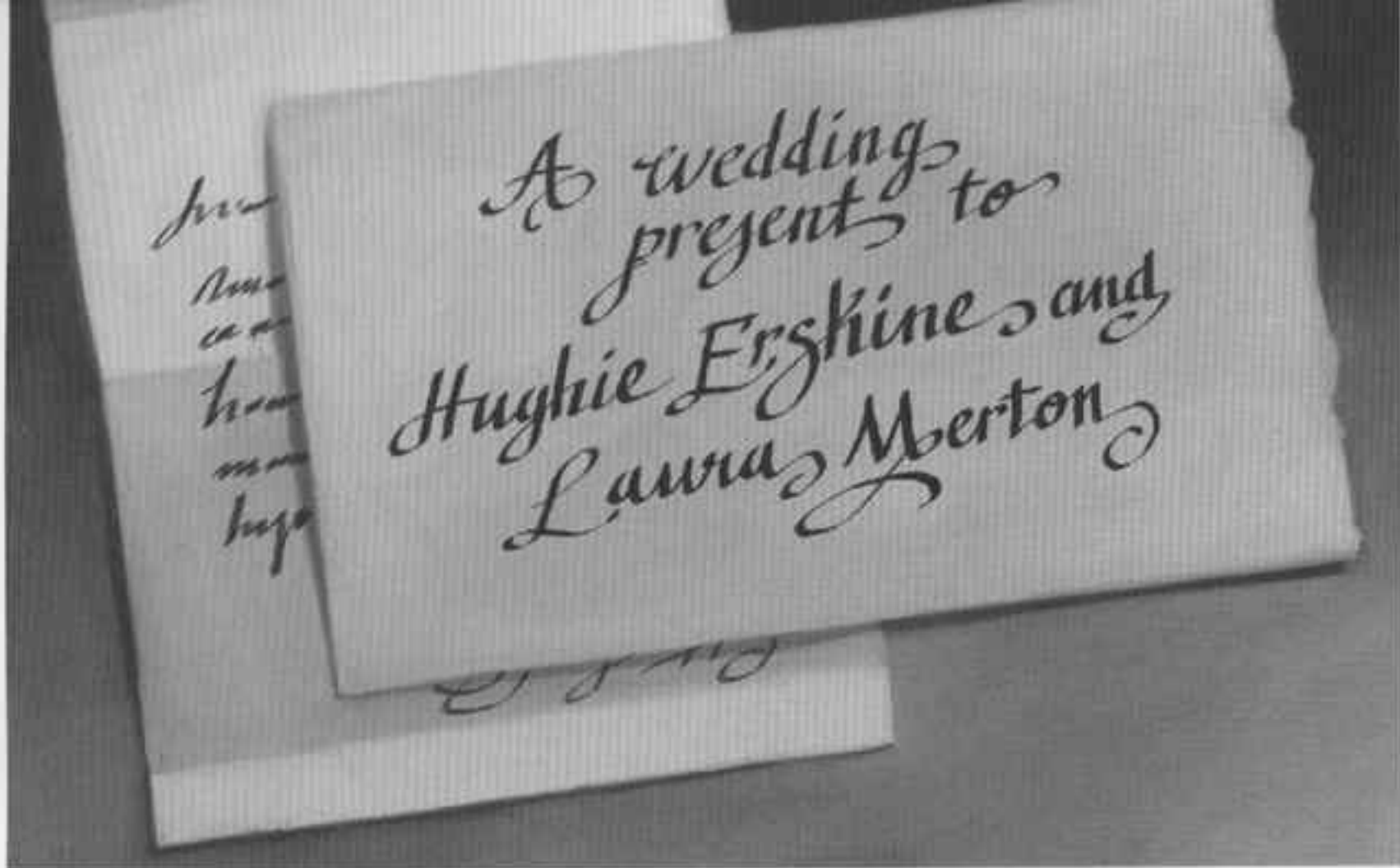
- A that Hughie was not married.
- B that the painting was finished.
- C a lot of things about Hughie.

4 Hughie wanted

- A the beggar to leave him alone.
- B to give the beggar some clothes.
- C to invite the beggar to his home.

5 Alan told Hughie that

- A the beggar was angry with Hughie.
- B the beggar was extremely rich.
- C the beggar was a professional model.



PART TWO

Baron Hausberg



hat evening he went to his club. Alan Trevor was there.

'Did you finish your painting?' Hughie asked.

'Yes, it's finished,' answered Trevor. 'My goodness, you made an incredible impression on my beggar. He's devoted to you. I told him all about you, who you are, where you live, your financial situation, your prospects, everything!'

'Alan,' cried Hughie, 'he'll probably be outside my house. But you're joking of course. Poor old man! He's so miserable. I have lots of old clothes at home I could give him.'

'But he looks splendid in his rags,'¹ said Trevor. 'I only paint

1. rags : old and dirty clothes.

The Model *Millionaire*

him when he's dressed like a poor man.'

'You painters have no heart,' Hughie replied.

'An artist's heart is his head,' said Trevor. 'Our job is to show the world as it is, not to reform it. Now, how is Laura? The beggar is very interested in her.'

'You didn't talk to him about Laura?' Hughie asked.

'Of course. He knows all about the colonel, the lovely Laura, and the ten thousand pounds.'

'You told that old beggar all my business?' Hughie was now angry.

'My dear boy,' said Trevor, smiling, 'that old beggar, as you call him, is one of the richest men in Europe. He could buy all of London tomorrow. He has a house in every capital city and only eats from gold plates.'

'What are you talking about?' asked Hughie, who could not believe what his friend was saying.

'The old man you saw in my studio this morning,' Trevor explained, 'was Baron Hausberg. He's a great friend of mine; he buys all my pictures.'

'And I gave Baron Hausberg a coin?' cried Hughie. 'Why didn't you tell me, Alan? I made such a fool of myself.' Hughie felt very embarrassed.

'Well, I certainly didn't think that you gave money to beggars,' Trevor laughed.

'He must think I'm so stupid!' Hughie said. 'Please tell no one about what has happened today.'

Hughie left the club feeling very unhappy. Alan Trevor stayed, still laughing.

A small black rectangular logo with the word "END" in white capital letters.



The Model *Millionaire*

At breakfast the next morning Hughie's servant told him a visitor was waiting for him. 'Monsieur Gustave Naudin, sir,' the servant said, 'representing Baron Hausberg.'

'He probably wants me to apologise¹ for what I did yesterday,' Hughie thought.

The servant opened the door for the visitor. He was an old gentleman with gold glasses and grey hair. He had a French accent. 'Do I have the honour of speaking to Monsieur Erskine?' he asked. 'I have come from Baron Hausberg.'

Hughie interrupted the man. 'Sir, please offer the Baron my sincerest apologies for what happened yesterday.'

'The Baron,' said the old gentleman with a smile, 'has told me to give you this envelope.'

On the envelope was written, 'A wedding present to Hugh Erskine and Laura Merton, from an old beggar,' and inside was a cheque² for ten thousand pounds.

When they got married Alan Trevor was the best man,³ and the Baron made a speech at the wedding.

'Millionaire models are rare,' remarked Alan, 'but model millionaires are even rarer!'

1. **apologise** : tell someone that you are sorry for something.

2. **cheque** : a piece of paper you can use instead of money to pay for things.

3. **best man** : a male friend or member of the husband's family who supports him at his wedding.



Go back to the text

1 Summary

Monsieur Gustave Naudin visited Hughie's house. This is what he wrote in his diary for the day. Unfortunately, he made some mistakes. Find the eight mistakes and correct them. There is an example (0).

On behalf of the Baron, this morning I visited Mr Ernest Erskine, a young man who lives in London. My employer is a man of many interests and enjoys spending his free time as an artist's model. He sits for a particularly good artist with a reputation here in London, Mr Alan Trevor. This artist is, at present, painting a portrait of the Baron and his wife. For some reason, the Baron wants to appear as a soldier. During a recent sitting Mr Erskine was also present.

Mr Erskine did not recognise my master and thought he was a poor man who needed some money. He gave my master — one of the richest men in Europe — two or three coins out of his pocket! He was very impressed by the young man's gesture and decided to help him in some way. A lady friend of the Baron told him that Mr Erskine was not a wealthy man. She also told him that Mr Erskine was engaged to a beautiful young lady, named Lucy Merton. Unfortunately, her father — a bishop, I believe — insists that Mr Erskine has some money before he can marry his daughter. The sum needed is precisely £10,000. My master decided to help the couple. He sent me to Mr Erskine's home to deliver £10,000 in cash. The money was a in a small box with a message to the couple written on it.

0. I visited Mr Ernest Erskine.

No, he didn't. He visited Mr Hughie Erskine.

2 Alan told the beggar all about Hughie and Laura. Imagine the conversation between Baron Hausberg and Alan Trevor. Work with your partner and complete the missing information.

Baron Hausberg: Tell me about this man. What a kind person! So rare these days. People are embarrassed by poverty and prefer to ignore it. What is his name?

Alan Trevor:

Baron Hausberg: Has he any money? Did his father leave him any?

Alan Trevor:

Baron Hausberg: What does he do?

Alan Trevor:

Baron Hausberg: He is an extremely good-looking young man. There must be a woman in his life.

Alan Trevor:

Baron Hausberg: What about her family?

Alan Trevor:

Baron Hausberg: Are they going to marry?

Alan Trevor:

Now role play the dialogue.

- 3** 'Millionaire models are rare, but model millionaires are even rarer!' Here 'model' has more than one meaning. Re-arrange the jumbled definitions and then match them to the numbered examples 1 and 2.
- a. person/good/a/example/copy/to/who/is/an
 - b. painted/drawn/photographed/an/person/artist/by/who/is/or/a
1. millionaire model:
2. model millionaire:
- 4** Can you explain what Alan Trevor means? Write a couple of sentences explaining the title.



INTERNET PROJECT



Connect to the Internet and go to www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine. Open the page for *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Other Stories*. Click on the internet project link. Go down the page until you find the title of this book and click on the relevant link for this project. Find some further information about Oscar Wilde. Look for some photos and put together a collection of quotes from these stories or from his other works. Present your project to the class.

1 Imagine that each story has been made into a film. The films are on television. Read these six short descriptions from a TV magazine. Match one appropriate description to each story (1-3).

1. 'Lord Arthur Savile's Crime'
 2. 'The Sphinx Without a Secret'
 3. 'The Model Millionaire'
- a. A mysterious lady leads an English gentleman to crime.
 - b. A millionaire proves that even the rich have a heart.
 - c. Murder can be both serious and funny in this famous comic short story.
 - d. A gentleman's disastrous determination to kill.
 - e. The story of a gentleman's love for a lady who loved mystery.
 - f. How art brought a beggar success.

Explain why the other three descriptions are incorrect.

PET 2 Read the following questions about 'Lord Arthur Savile's Crime'. For each question, mark the letter next to the correct answer – A, B, C or D.

- 1 Lady Windermere introduced Lord Arthur to
 - A Sybil.
 - B Mr Podgers.
 - C Lady Clementina.
 - D the Dean of Chichester.

- 2 Mr Podgers told Lord Arthur what he had seen in his hand
 - A immediately.
 - B the next day.
 - C before leaving.
 - D at Lord Arthur's club.

- 3 After hearing Mr Podgers' prophecy,
- A Lord Arthur went on a desperate night-time walk of London.
 - B Lord Arthur went to visit Sybil.
 - C Lord Arthur decided to kill Mr Podgers.
 - D Lord Arthur asked him for advice.
- 4 Why did Lord Arthur decide to kill one of his relatives?
- A because they were old
 - B because they were his enemy
 - C in order to marry Sybil
 - D in order to go Venice
- 5 Lord Arthur realised that Lady Clementina
- A was murdered.
 - B died of natural causes.
 - C was killed in an accident.
 - D fell ill and then recovered.
- 6 Lord Arthur murdered
- A the Dean of Chichester.
 - B Lady Clementina.
 - C Lady Windermere.
 - D Mr Podgers.
- 7 Lord Arthur told Lady Windermere that chiromancy
- A ruined his life.
 - B made him sad.
 - C gave him all the happiness in his life.
 - D had no effect on him.

3 Are the following statements about 'The Sphinx Without a Secret' and 'The Model Millionaire' true (T) or false (F)?

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Lord Murchison was anxious and confused about problems at work. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Lord Murchison saw a woman walking her dog and was fascinated. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. The mysterious lady was called Lady Alroy. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. The mysterious lady asked Lord Murchison to send her letter to a local library. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Lord Murchison and the mysterious lady got married and were very happy. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Hughie Erskine was ugly and very rich. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Alan Trevor was a painter and an artist. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Hughie gave the beggar his only coin because he felt sorry for him. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. The beggar was offended by Hughie's gesture. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j. In the end Hughie was able to marry Laura. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Key to Exit Test

1 1c; 2e; 3b.

2 1B; 2C; 3A; 4C; 5B; 6D; 7C.

3 a; b; c; d; e; f; g; h; i; j; T.

The new structures introduced in this step of our **READING & TRAINING** series are listed below. Any one reader may not always include all of the structures listed, but it will certainly not include any structures from higher steps. Naturally, structures from lower steps will be included. For a complete list of all the structures used over all the six steps, consult the *Black Cat Guide to Graded Readers*, which is also available online at our website, www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it.

Apart from the structural control, we also take great care to grade the vocabulary appropriately for each step.

Step Three B1.2

All the structures used in the previous levels, plus the following:

Verb tenses

Present Perfect Simple: unfinished past with *for* or *since* (duration form)

Past Perfect Simple: narrative

Verb forms and patterns

Regular verbs and all irregular verbs in current English

Causative: *have / get* + object + past participle

Reported questions and orders with *ask* and *tell*

Modal verbs

Would: hypothesis

Would rather: preference

Should (present and future reference): moral obligation

Ought to (present and future reference): moral obligation

Used to: past habits and states

Types of clause

2nd Conditional: *if* + past, *would(n't)*

Zero, 1st and 2nd conditionals with *unless*

Non-defining relative clauses with *who* and *where*

Clauses of result: *so*; *so ... that*; *such ... that*

Clauses of concession: *although*, *though*

Other

Comparison: *(not) as / so ... as*; *(not) ... enough to*; *too ... to*

Available at Step Three:

- **The £1,000,000 Bank Note** Mark Twain
- **Alien at School** Michelle Brown
- **Bizarre Tales** Peter Foreman
- **The Canterville Ghost** Oscar Wilde
- **Classic Detective Stories**
- **The Diamond as Big as The Ritz** F. Scott Fitzgerald
- **Duck Soup** Peter Foreman
- **Great Mysteries of Our World** Gina D. B. Clemen
- **Gulliver's Travels** Jonathan Swift
- **The Hound of the Baskervilles** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Jane Eyre** Charlotte Brontë
- **Julius Caesar** William Shakespeare
- **Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Other Stories** Oscar Wilde
- **Of Mice and Men** John Steinbeck
- **The Pearl** John Steinbeck
- **The Phantom of the Opera** Gaston Leroux
- **The Prisoner of Zenda** Anthony Hope
- **The Red Badge of Courage** Stephen Crane
- **Romeo and Juliet** William Shakespeare
- **The Scarlet Pimpernel** Baroness Orczy
- **Sherlock Holmes Investigates** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Stories of Suspense** Nathaniel Hawthorne
- **The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde** Robert Louis Stevenson
- **Tales of the Supernatural**
- **Three Men in a Boat** Jerome K. Jerome
- **Treasure Island** Robert Louis Stevenson
- **Twelfth Night** William Shakespeare
- **The Vegas Hills Carnival Mystery** Michelle Brown

Lord Arthur Savile's Crime

At a party a palm reader tells Lord Arthur Savile that he will commit a murder. But will he become an assassin? Find out about Lady Alroy's mysterious ways in 'The Sphinx Without a Secret' and discover how it pays to be nice to the poor in 'The Model Millionaire'.

This reader uses the **EXPANSIVE READING** approach, where the text becomes a springboard to improve language skills and to explore historical background, cultural connections and other topics suggested by the text. As well as the stories, this reader contains:

- Wide range of activities practising the four skills
- PET-style activities
- Trinity-style activities (Grade 5)
- Dossiers: *London, the World City* and *Pseudo-Science in Late Victorian England*
- Internet project
- Exit test with answer key
- Text recorded in full

| | | | |
|------------|---|------------------|----------------------|
| Step One | ■ | CEFR A2 | Exam Level KET |
| Step Two | ■ | CEFR B1.1 | Exam Preparation PET |
| Step Three | ■ | CEFR B1.2 | Exam Level PET |
| Step Four | ■ | CEFR B2.1 | Exam Preparation FCE |
| Step Five | ■ | CEFR B2.2 | Exam Level FCE |
| Step Six | ■ | CEFR C1 | Exam Preparation CAE |

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