

Act VI Scene 4



The case had picked up momentum quickly. The police had found the blue ski mask in question, dumped unceremoniously into some nearby bushes. Within the balaclava, they had found numerous strands of ginger hair, which had been shipped off to the lab.

The laboratory report had turned up a number of interesting results. Soon they had Mr. X's name, identity, address, criminal record, and a full psychological profile.

Lestrade addressed his men and briefed them on the situation.

"All right, all right, all right! Get this message through ya thick skulls, you sorry lot!" he started.

Lara recoiled at how aggressive and hostile the language was.

Having realised that the police were hot on his trails, Mr. X packed a bag, hastily stuffing the amulet into the front pocket of his trusty rucksack. As he turned to depart, he frantically remembered — perhaps out of habit — to check whether he had accidentally kept the oven on. Then, realising that he was running for his life, and that this apartment would imminently become a crime scene, he scuttled out the front door, but not before bumping into the leg of his coffee table and shoulder-charging a bookcase. "OW!" — the last interjection he would ever utter in his own apartment.

The taller constable pounded heavily on the wooden apartment door. It would not budge.

"POLICE! OPEN UP!"

There was no response. He pounded some more, before giving up and asking his colleagues to provide him with the small luxury of space in this cramped hallway.

The taller constable launched into a thrilling crane kick, arms out wide, one leg tucked behind the other, straight as an arrow, seeking to punch a hole straight through the front door.

It failed.

Lara looked at the whole scene with yet another of her patented bemused looks.

In what world could that have possibly worked, she wondered.

As the taller constable lay in agony on the ground, accepting the empathy of a handful of his colleagues, his shorter partner pulled out a ring of keys and got to work on finding the correct one. It did not take long.

With a small "Eureka!", she opened the front door to reveal — lo and behold — an empty apartment.

"What!? You 'ad those keys the entire time!?" The taller constable had regained some composure after his... 'incident'. Unfortunately for him, he quickly lost that composure and spun into a mind-numbing rage. Fortunately for everyone else around him, he had what they all presumed to be a broken leg. He howled and screamed and had a fit, and resembled an overgrown baby.

It was a sorry sight to behold, Lara thought.

"Well, at least he knows there's some pressure on him," Attila noted, matter-of-factly.

The Hun was indeed correct. Even the deductive skills of DI Lestrade could inform you that the thief had made a hasty getaway. A few smashed plates, a broken vase, and a glass coffee table that had keeled over on the carpet, allowing a mug of tea to slowly soak into the floorboard coverings. A bookshelf was toppled, and had half of its contents on the floor. A memory of a bookshelf falling flooded its way into Attila's head.

Attila quickly shook his head, dismissing the thought.

"How clumsy is this bloke?" he pondered aloud. He genuinely could not tell if these items had been knocked over in haste, or if they were some dastardly ploy to hamper the efforts of the investigative team.

"Detective Inspector!" one of the junior constables shouted. She was out of breath and sucking in big lungfuls of air.

"Yes?"

"The car. In the garage. It's still there."

The Detective Inspector considered the thought, and had an epiphany of his own.

"Then he must not have gotten far. He's either on foot or... on the Tube!" Lestrade was ecstatic about his good police work.

Unfortunately for him, Attila had come to the same conclusion moments earlier, but, seeking not to steal the inspector's thunder, allowed him to continue to bask in the glory of his own genius.

"To the Tube!"

The game was well and truly underway.



		r attent information	
Name:		Date of Birth:	Telephone Number:
Examination and Treatment Record			
Tooth	Description of Services		
11	Chemical produced by fermenting glucose (7)		
12	Take away someone's ability to command, perhaps because they had their hands in the cookie jar (5)		
13	Chocolate and cream icing (7)		
14	Celtic person north of the Hadrian Wall waiting for the Romans to take their sweet time to leave (4)		
15	Where Fa'ausi is a traditional dessert (5)		
16	What you do with a lolly wrapper before throwing it in the bin (7)		
17	Miami photographer John Sweet (6)		
18	Wisdom tooth impacted; do not touch		
21	Humour or glycoprotein-containing substance secreted by respiratory mucous cells (6)		
22	Sweet little girl whose father was killed by a stingray (5)		
23	Levine who wrote "Sugar" (4)		
24	Eyelash cosmetics, perhaps worn by people attending a sweet 16th party (8)		
25	Japanese fish as colourful as Skittles (3)		
26	Ice cream where one side is a sandwich and the other is covered in chocolate (7)		
27	An Acorus calamus is more commonly known as a sweet(4)		
28	Wisdom tooth impacted; do not touch		
31	Retro, perhaps describing a shop where lollies are stocked in jars (3-6)		
32	Describes the light nature of fairy floss or a large well-ventilated space (4)		
33	Colloquial name of barristers who, as reward for sweet legal victories, are honoured by letters patent (5)		
34	That sweet old lady used to be very mean, but in her old age (8)		
35	State that is the home of akutaq (6)		
36	Disease characterised by weakening bones that may be prevented by lactose-containing foods and drinks (12)		
37	Falcon known as a "windhover" after its behaviour when hunting for dessert (7)		
38	Wisdom tooth impacted; do not touch		
41	The public should be about the dangers of sugary diets (8)		
42	What the supermarket has to do when their shelves run out of lollies (7)		
43	Better cut down on sweets if you have this condition that causes your heart to beat irregularly (10)		
44	Coconut-flavoured biscuits sprinkled with sugar crystals produced by Arnott's (4)		
45	Flower typically associated with sweet romantic gestures (4)		
46	Ancient script where "carob" means sweet (11)		
47	Capital city where you may find stroopwafel (9)		
48	Wisdom tooth impacted; do not touch		