

The Curious Case of the Missing Tea

Testing Module

November 23, 2025

CHAPTER 1: The Introduction of Arthur

Professor Arthur Pendleton, a man renowned for his love of extremely strong Earl Grey, lived alone in a small cottage nestled beside the River Wye. On Tuesday morning, Arthur discovered his prize teapot, "The Great Steep," was missing. Arthur's frustration was immediately evident. He paced his study, muttering darkly about thieves and tea rustlers. The only other resident nearby was Mrs. Beatrice Plum.

CHAPTER 2: Beatrice's Alibi

Mrs. Beatrice Plum, a kind but eccentric woman who only drinks herbal infusions, visited Arthur daily to share the morning news. Arthur confronted Beatrice immediately, accusing her of the theft. Beatrice, however, calmly pointed out that she had been knitting a scarf for her pet badger, Bartholomew, since dawn. "Why would I want your bitter black water, Arthur?" Beatrice asked, smiling sweetly. This was a reasonable alibi.

CHAPTER 3: Bartholomew's Confession

Bartholomew, the badger, was known for his strange habit of collecting shiny metal objects. Arthur and Beatrice found Bartholomew sitting in his burrow, polishing the missing teapot with a small handkerchief. Bartholomew chuffed sadly, seemingly confessing to the crime. Arthur, realizing the mistake, apologized to Beatrice and offered Bartholomew a piece of ginger cake, which the badger promptly devoured.

EPILOGUE

Arthur and Beatrice remained friends. The Great Steep was recovered. Bartholomew was forgiven.