a study in Pink

A breakdown of Sherlock Holme's incredible deduction and observation skills in the first episode of the TV show, Sherlock. the

CASE Four seemingly unrelated "serial suicide" victims die all in the same way: by swallowing a pink pill. What is happening? Are they actually suicides or are they being murdered?



One victim leaves a clue. She carves "RACHE" into the floor before dying.

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O JENNIFER WILSON

Observations

- -Ring dirty on outside, clean inside
- -"Rache"
- -Coat still wet, umbrella dry
- -Splash marks on back of leg

Deductions

- -Unhappy marriage; serial adulterer
- -German for "revenge" or "Rachel?"
- -Visiting from out of town, somewhere not too far (Cardiff)
- -Splatters from a suitcase

Sherlock finds Wilson's pink suitcase, but her phone is missing. Wilson started "Rachel", which is the password to her phone. She planted her phone on the murderer so someone could unlock her phone and activate the GPS to track his location.





The murder drover Wilson to Lauriston Gardens to kill her. Sherlock texts Wilson's phone: "What happened at Lauriston Gardens? I must have blacked out 22 Northumberland St.", knowing that the murderer will realize his mistake and panic.





Sherlock waits in a restaurant for the murderer to show up on Northumberland St. When he notices a taxi slow down, he assumes it is the murderer and chases down the car, but the passenger is merely an American who has just arrived.



Sherlock returns to his flat, defeated that he didn't catch the killer. While he soon discovers that the phone is at his flat, his landlord tells him that a taxi for him has arrived, which leads Sherlock to realize that the cabbie is the murderer.

MURDERER PROFILE

Estranged father
Dying
London cabbie
Sponsored Sherlock's enemy, Moriarty

Observation

Victims disappear from busy streets

Deduction

Murderer is someone who passes unnoticed wherever they go. Someone who hunts in the middle of the crowd...a cabbie.

CASE SOLVED C



The cabbie forced his victims to play a game of chance. He presented two identical looking pills and they had to choose one to swallow. Only one of the pills was deadly. For every successful murder, Moriarty, the cabbie's sponsor and Sherlock's arch-enemy, promised to send financial support to the cabbie's children.

Infographic by Betty Fan

Reference