



Chapter 1: The Gentleman Thief

“The day started so normally,” Sylvia Roland said as she sat down at the kitchen table.

She watched the police constable take out his notebook.

“I got up as I always do at 5:00, made my husband his breakfast and kissed him goodbye when he left to catch the 6:30 train to London.” The pretty young woman paused for a second and looked nervously at her husband, who was sitting next to her. He *squeezed* her hand.

“Afterwards,” she continued, “I got dressed and enjoyed the half hour I usually get alone before my little boy wakes up. After breakfast we went shopping and then Tommy ate *fish fingers* for lunch. I was just putting the things in the dishwasher when the doorbell rang...”

The young constable smiled at her *encouragingly*. “That’s very good, Mrs Roland. Try and remember exactly what happened. Sometimes small details can be very helpful.”

Sylvia Roland closed her eyes and concentrated. She saw her son’s laughing face as he came running through the kitchen door...

“Look mummy! There’s a great big car outside our house. And the man inside is wearing a uniform. He looks like a soldier.”

“Is that right, Tommy?” Sylvia asked, as she continued emptying the dishwasher.

She did not look out of the kitchen window. Big cars were quite normal in this part of Kent. All of the couples living in Primrose Road were on the way up the career ladder. Most of the men worked in London. Each of the identical red-brick houses had a nice car parked in the garage. A company car was often part of a young manager’s package, even if its owner only used it to drive to



the train station in Tunbridge Wells. Only housewives drove “small” cars.

“The soldier’s getting out of the car. He’s coming to see us!” the four-year-old continued excitedly.

“No, darling, nobody’s coming to see us this afternoon,” his mother replied as she put the knives and forks in the cutlery basket. “Remember, it’s Thursday – we’re on our own today.”

The doorbell rang.

“I told you, I told you.” Tommy ran into the hall. “He’s at the door. I’ll open the door. Let me open the door.”

“Tommy!”

Sylvia ran after her son and grabbed the boy’s hand. “Tommy! I’ve told you about opening the doors to strangers, haven’t I?”

Tommy angrily pulled away his hand and folded his arms.

Sylvia sighed. Her son was going through a difficult stage. She looked through the window next to the front door. Standing outside was a big man in a chauffeur’s uniform. He must be lost, she thought, and opened the door.

The man smiled. “Good afternoon, Mrs Roland. I’m the chauffeur from Samuelsson Jewellers. I am to take you to the Tonbridge Golf Club.”

Sylvia was confused. “Sorry? Where?”

The chauffeur looked surprised. “Mr Roland did phone you, didn’t he? He told me to pick you up at 3:00 p.m. so that you would be there when the guests from Hong Kong arrive. You can bring your son; Mrs Taylor can keep an eye on him while you have tea with the guests.”

Mrs Taylor was her husband’s secretary. She was not usually happy to take Tommy, Sylvia knew, so her husband’s guests were probably important jewellery clients. The public relations event was still very unexpected, however.



“But he didn’t *mention* people were coming over from Hong Kong,” Mrs Roland *exclaimed*. “I can hardly *turn up* in jeans and a sweatshirt.”

“Can’t you get changed quickly?”

The chauffeur looked very nervous.

“Perhaps I should have phoned you. I might have misunderstood Mr Roland. He’ll be very angry with me if I tell him that you couldn’t come because nobody had informed you.”

Cvičení 1: Jak zní správně tázací dovětek?

1. Sylvia’s son is four years old, isn’t he?
2. His mother told him not to open the door, _____?
3. The man was wearing a chauffeur’s uniform, _____?
4. Mrs Roland’s husband hadn’t phoned her, _____?
5. She’ll have to get changed quickly, _____?
6. Mrs Roland enjoys being married to a jeweller, _____?
7. Mrs Taylor was Mr Roland’s secretary, _____?
8. The chauffeur looked very nervous, _____?

The old man looked so unhappy that Mrs Roland immediately felt sorry for him. She looked past him at the silver Rolls Royce that was parked in front of the house. She rather hoped that *nosy* Mrs Waters could see the car. It would mean everyone would know about it by the time she got back that evening.

“I’ll change quickly. Please come in,” Sylvia said.



“Oh no, madam. I’ll wait in the car,” the man replied. “I’ll phone Mr Roland quickly to let him know that we’re on our way. I can do that while you get ready.”

Sylvia stared out at the Rolls Royce again as she shut the door. Her husband was one of the top designers at Samuelsson Jewellers, and it definitely had its advantages.

Five minutes later, Mrs Roland came out of the house. She was wearing a blue dress and white jacket. Tommy ran ahead of her towards the big car. It was obviously used to transport important people because the dark windows made it impossible to see inside. The chauffeur opened the door to allow them to get in.

Sylvia *hesitated* slightly.

“I’ve spoken to your husband,” the chauffeur said a bit too quickly. “He says he will explain everything when you get there. I’ve also put a child seat in the back for your son. It should be the right size.” “Come on, Mummy,” said Tommy, who had already climbed into the car. “Let’s get going.”

Sylvia got inside the car and the door closed behind her. It locked, which seemed a bit strange. She first put Tommy in the child seat and then *fastened* her own seat belt. When she looked up she saw the chauffeur *staring at* her through the separating glass. Somehow this made her feel uncomfortable.

“There’s a bit of a strange smell in the back of the car,” she *commented* nervously. She tried unsuccessfully to *loosen* her seat belt. “Just a bit of *sleeping gas*, Mrs Roland,” the chauffeur answered politely. “We have rather a long drive ahead of us. It will help you to relax.”

That was the last thing Mrs Roland remembered about the drive. When she woke up, she was no longer in the car but sitting tied to a chair in what seemed to be a *huge* cellar.



Cvičení 2: Jaký tvar má sloveso v minulém čase prostém?

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. is _____ | 5. loosen _____ |
| 2. get _____ | 6. tie _____ |
| 3. see _____ | 7. drive _____ |
| 4. put _____ | 8. try _____ |

Sylvia tried to *free* her hands, but it was impossible. She called her son's name and then heard someone move behind her. She *froze*. "Don't be frightened, Mrs Roland. Tommy is fine. Aren't you, Tommy?"

Sylvia *breathed* in deeply when she heard her son's *giggle*.

"Hello, Mummy. Mr Napper has given me a colouring book."

Sylvia turned round and *managed* to see her son. He was sitting opposite a man. She recognized him as the chauffeur, and there were two other men sitting with him. All of them were wearing masks. The "chauffeur" had *swapped* the chauffeur's uniform for a pair of flannel trousers and a blue jacket. Despite the mask, Sylvia could still see that the chauffeur had an unnaturally long nose – and that his brown hair had *streaks* of grey.

"Why have you brought us here?" she *demanded*. "What do you want from me?"

The man stood up and walked over to the table.

"Who are you?" Sylvia asked nervously.

"The press call me 'The Gentleman Thief'," the man answered *pleasantly*. "Perhaps you have heard about me."

Mrs Roland could not believe her ears. Who hadn't heard of "The Gentleman Thief"? The story had been in all the newspapers. The man had stolen some of the city's finest jewellery over the last few months, or rather he had arranged to have it stolen. He had



developed a very clever method to get the jewellery. He kidnapped someone from a jeweller's family, then made the jeweller himself hand over *priceless* pieces in order to *free* his relatives.

CVIČENÍ 3

Cvičení 3: Pokračujte v četbě a podtrhněte v následujícím úryvku správný výraz, který je v kontextu s příběhem.

The gentleman thief smiled (1.) in amusement/anger as he watched Sylvia's eyes. His eyes had a *sly*, animal-like quality.

"Then you know what I need you to (2.) make/do before I can let you and Tommy go home again," he replied.

He pulled out a piece of paper and a mobile phone and (3.) set/put them on Sylvia's lap.

"I have written down what I want you to (4.) say/tell to your husband. I am (5.) safe/sure he knows that you and your son are (6.) worth/value far more to him than this little bit of jewellery."

As he spoke, the man slowly untied her hands, but not her feet. Suddenly his voice became more serious, although he continued to talk in a calm voice – almost as though he were discussing a change in the weather.

"Mrs Roland, please make it quite clear to your husband that if he contacts the police before the *exchange*, he will never see you again... I know a lot of people at Scotland Yard, so you see I would find out immediately."

Sylvia Roland had never felt so frightened in her life. She picked up the mobile phone with *trembling* fingers and *dialled* her husband's number.

"George, is that you?" she said carefully, not immediately recognizing her husband's voice.



“Hi, darling,” her husband answered. “If you’re phoning about the car, I’m going to have to *disappoint* you. They don’t have it in red anymore, ...but they do have it in silver.”

“George, I’m not phoning about the car,” Sylvia said tearfully.

The fear in his wife’s voice made George Roland put down his pen and focus on the telephone call.

“What’s the matter? Is Tommy all right?”

“No. We’ve been kidnapped. And you’ve got to help us by giving the Gentleman Thief a piece of jewellery.”

“Kidnapped... Gentleman Thief... a piece of jewellery,” George *stuttered*. “Sylvia, I don’t understand what you are saying.”

The gentleman thief took the phone. “Then perhaps it is better that I explain, Mr Roland...”

Cvičení 4: Doplňte slovesa v přítomném čase prostém nebo v přítomném čase průběhovém. Podtrhněte správnou variantu.

1. The gentleman thief unties/is untying Sylvia Roland’s hands at the moment.
2. George Roland’s train leaves/is leaving for London at 7:00 a.m. every morning.
3. Tommy stays/is staying in bed a bit longer this morning
4. The gentleman thief always drives/is driving a Rolls Royce.
5. Sylvia Roland does not know/is not knowing what to do.
6. George Roland understands/is understanding what his wife is saying, but does not know what to do.

Six hours later, Inspector James Hudson entered the New Queen pub, which was about a ten-minute walk from his office in Scotland Yard. The pub in London’s popular Westminster *district* was



always full and noisy. People had to push past each other, either to get to the bar or to return to their tables.

James Hudson normally preferred the Lord Nelson pub around the corner, which was quieter and more traditional, but tonight was different. He wanted to discuss “business” with Elvira Elliot. That would be easier in the New Queen. Nobody would be able to hear what they were saying.

The senior detective had not been surprised to receive Elvira’s call that afternoon. In fact he had been expecting it. He and she often ended up working together on such cases. As an insurance investigator, Elvira’s job was to make sure that the facts given to the insurance company were all true.

He saw Elvira immediately. With her bright red hair and fashionable clothes, it did not matter where the young woman sat. She was always the first person anyone saw in a room. Hudson waved and pointed to the bar. He mouthed the word “wine” across the room and Elvira nodded. He ordered a single malt whisky for himself and a medium-sized glass of Elvira’s favourite Merlot. Then he pushed through the crowd to the corner table she had managed to reserve for them.

Cvičení 5: Přeložte následující anglická slova.

1. district _____
2. to stutter _____
3. to prefer _____
4. insurance company _____
5. fashionable _____



6. to wave _____
7. to disappoint _____
8. jewellery _____
9. sly _____

“Hello, Elvira,” the detective said, as he put down the glasses. “That’s another interesting combination of colours today?”

Elvira *grinned*. “James, I’ve told you before. As somebody who only seems to own two jackets – even if they are of a very good quality – you can hardly hope to know anything about fashion.”

Hudson *grinned* and lifted his glass, “Cheers.”

“Cheers,” Elvira answered. Her *expression* changed, “So, what do we know?”

“By the time we knew about the kidnapping, that *devil* was miles away from Samuelsson Jewellers,” Hudson replied. He *banged* his glass back down on the table. “This time he got a necklace, thought to have belonged to Marie Antoinette.”

Elvira Elliot *frowned*. “That makes the sixth *robbery* in total, doesn’t it? I thought the *theft* of the fourteenth-century ring which belonged to the Westminster family was bad enough!”

“At least it means we’ll be working together again,” Hudson *raised* his voice to *battle* with the noise of the pub.

“When did they put you on the *case*?” Elvira asked, *leaning forward* to make sure that the inspector could hear what she was saying.

“This morning. Sir Reginald was as happy to hear about the latest *theft* as your people. Higgins wasn’t getting anywhere with the Gentleman Thief, so Sir Reginald told me that he wanted me to take over now that I’ve finished working on the Dolphin *case*.”



Cvičení 6: Pokračujte ve čtení a doplňte slovesa v závorkách ve správném slovesném čase.

Hudson *smoothed* his left eyebrow, as he (1. think) _____ back to the second visit with the Chief Inspector that afternoon. Sir Reginald (2. be) _____ very angry. After Hudson (3. sit) _____ down, the Chief Inspector started *marching* angrily around his office.

“This (4. have got) _____ to stop, Hudson. It’s becoming a real *embarrassment*. This is the third *theft* this month. What (5. go) _____ to tell the journalists when they come (6. see) _____ me?”

James Hudson knew better than to try and speak when the Chief Inspector was in such a mood. James was the only detective that the Chief Inspector called by his first name, so when Sir Reginald starting saying “Hudson”, it was not a good sign.

It was true that there had been a lot of bad press about the fact that Scotland Yard had not yet caught the gentleman thief. The fact that he drove his silver Rolls Royce around *in broad daylight* only *added insult to injury*.

Sir Reginald was under a lot of pressure and was getting nervous. And if Sir Reginald got nervous, it went without saying that every police officer in Scotland Yard would soon be nervous, too.

It did not help that there were several big *cases* running at the same time, Hudson thought. He had been working on the *Dolphin case*, a big *murder case*, which was going to court the following week.



Cvičení 7: Dokážete pomoci komisaři Hudsonovi a Elviře Elliottové? Odpovězte na otázky podle příběhu.

1. How many thefts have there been so far?

2. What was stolen during the last robbery?

3. How does the gentleman thief carry out the robberies?

4. How do we know that the thief is probably quite old?

5. Is the gentleman thief working alone?

6. What was the thief wearing when Sylvia Roland saw him the first time?

“What have you found out so far?” asked Elvira, interrupting Hudson’s thoughts.

The inspector took another *sip* of whisky and then took his notebook out of his tweed jacket. It was a *habit* of his to look at his notebook, although he usually had all the information in his head. However, Hudson found it helpful to check the things he said by comparing them with the notes in his little black book.

“Well, it is all still a bit vague. The thief always seems to use the



silver Rolls Royce, but nobody has yet *managed* to remember the registration number. And even if they did, it is unlikely that it would be the real one.”

“It’s still surprising all the same,” *commented* Elvira. “After all, it’s not the type of car you see every day, is it?”

“Don’t you believe it!” Hudson *grinned*. “The Gentleman Thief only steals from very rich jewellers. And even Mrs Roland’s neighbours weren’t that surprised to see a Rolls outside the house.”

Cvičení 8: Které slovo je „černou ovcí“? Podtrhněte slovo, které nesouvisí s ostatními třemi výrazy.

1. take, taked, took, taken
2. notebook, magazine, newspaper, computer
3. whisky, wine, water, beer
4. detective, thief, burglar, robber
5. ring, necklace, bracelet, glasses
6. flat, house, office, bungalow

“What about our so-called Gentleman Thief?” asked Elvira, as she drank some of her wine.

Hudson opened the next page of his notebook.

“He always *pretends* to be someone from the company, or a friend of the family, and he is a master of *disguise*. He dressed up as a chauffeur this time,” he replied. “Most of the *witnesses* think he’s about 60. The main thing they remember about him is that he’s a big man with a rather long nose, and the fact that he seems to be very well *educated*.”

“Have you spoken to the Rolands yet?”

The detective shook his head. “No, they were pretty *shaken*, which



is understandable, so I have asked them to come in tomorrow morning. I had an officer *posted* outside their house to help them relax a little.”

“Could I come along and speak to you after you’ve questioned them?” Elvira asked.

Hudson nodded. “Yes, that shouldn’t be a problem. I could show you the rest of the *evidence* at the station. It’s interesting that the thief always steals such *unique* pieces. They would all be impossible to sell through the usual *channels*, so he must have a private buyer. Perhaps you’ll be able to give me some ideas if you see some of the photos...”

He held up his empty glass and agreed with himself, “Yes, that’s a good idea. We’ll talk about the rest tomorrow. How about another drink now? I want to hear about that *performance* of ‘The Phantom of the Opera’ you went to see last week...”

Cvičení 9: Čtěte dále a doplňte správná slova do vynechaných míst v textu. Výrazy pro doplnění jsou uvedeny v závorce.

(figures, laughed, old-fashioned, amusement, armchair, furniture)

Not so far away, another man was also enjoying a glass of whisky. He was seated in a leather (1.) _____ in front of an open fire and was surrounded by antique (2.) _____, oil paintings and porcelain (3.) _____. The man seemed very pleased with himself.

Suddenly a telephone rang. The man stood up and walked over to



a rosewood card table on which there was a very (4.) _____
_____ black telephone with a *dial*. He picked up the receiver.

“Hello,” he said, without giving his name.

He smiled when he heard the voice at the other end. “Ah,” he said with a touch of (5.) _____ in his voice. “What a surprise to hear from you! Now I wonder what you are calling about?”

He listened for a second and then (6.) _____.

“Of course it is the original. When have I ever brought you a *fake*? You can arrange the next meeting. How about next Saturday? In Soho? Or do you want me to organize a private party?”

There was a brief pause as the man listened to the voice at the end of the line.

“Saturday next week it is then. I’ll bring it with me at the weekend. Is there anything else?”

The man listened again and then *frowned*.

“That’s far too early. These things take time to organize, you know! Why do you need two prizes anyway? I do have a few other things I need to do, too – as you well know!”

There was another pause, and the man’s *expression* darkened.

“Do you know how difficult it is to work with those two? They are not exactly the most intelligent pair I have ever met.”

The man *paced* across the room. His *expression* got even darker the longer he held on to the phone. When he spoke again, the anger in his voice was easy to recognize.

“With the greatest respect: I don’t think that is a good idea. It will be far riskier than the other jobs, and I am afraid that one of your boys will *mess things up*. It’s just too soon. Too many things could



go wrong... Let's talk about it again when we meet on Saturday. You can't be that *desperate for* the money, surely!"

The man *hung up*, picked up his whisky glass and returned to his comfortable chair next to the fireplace. There was no smile on his face now.

Cvičení 10: Stupňujte následující přídavná jména a věnujte pozornost příkladům uvedeným v textu.

1. dark	darker	darkest
2. comfortable	_____	_____
3. easy	_____	_____
4. bad	_____	_____
5. happy	_____	_____
6. good	_____	_____

Chapter 2: A Manager in Flight

George and Sylvia Roland were still obviously in shock when they arrived at Scotland Yard on Friday morning. Hudson asked them how they had slept and gave them both a cup of tea, but after five minutes it was time to get down to business. He picked up the file and opened it on the desk, then he looked directly at Sylvia Roland. "Mrs Roland, I know you spoke to an officer last night, but I have a couple of other questions that I need to ask you," Hudson explained. "Perhaps now that you've had a bit of time to relax, you will be able to remember a few more details."