

Inspector McInnes



Hello, nice to meet you! May I introduce myself – I'm Inspector Arthur McInnes. I'm an expert on difficult criminal cases. Whenever my colleagues in London or in other places of the UK get stuck, they call me. I detect all hidden clues; I know when people are not telling the truth; I see pieces of evidence other policemen overlook: And – I never give up! Never! So, don't worry, I will help you to solve even the trickiest cases. Just follow my advice and you will catch the bad guy or girl...



Case 7: Pickpockets at Camden Market



Sergeant Miller

Stephen Oats

Bill O'Leary

Robin Fraser

Alison Barron

Folgende Wörter sollten vorab geklärt werden, um das Textverständnis zu sichern: *stroll, locks, purse, bump into s.o., absent-minded, encounter, pickpocket, mugger, have a row with s.o.*



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Sergeant
Miller:

Ok, so your wallet was stolen. Whereabouts did this happen?

Stephen Oats:

Well, I don't know exactly. I was strolling through Camden Lock Market together with two friends. We first had lunch in a Greek restaurant – excellent souvlaki, by the way – and then we had coffee in a lovely café with delicious French patisserie – I couldn't resist the chocolate cake. It was wonderful sitting in the sun, talking and enjoying a nice cup of coffee. About an hour later we wanted to have a drink outside a pub near the locks, and when I wanted to pay for the round – you see, John had paid for the coffees and cakes in the café – I noticed that my wallet was gone.

Sergeant
Miller:

I see. Where did you keep your wallet?

Stephen Oats:

It was in the inside pocket of my jacket. That's where I always keep it when I go out.

Sergeant
Miller:

Ok... Did anything unusual happen on the way from the Greek restaurant to the pub?

Stephen Oats:

Well, I don't know if this is really important. Shortly after we had left the Greek restaurant a man bumped into me, apologized a lot afterwards and then went away quickly... He looked rather absent-minded, so I didn't really pay any attention to it... and... oh yes, when we left the café I forgot my jacket on my chair. A woman who'd been sitting next to our table ran after me and gave it to me. And shortly before we arrived at the pub a rather strange thing happened: Suddenly, a young lady ran up to me, hugged me, even kissed me and said with a broad smile "Hi, it's great to see you again!" When I told her that this had to be a misunderstanding, another lady turned up and said that this was part of a psychological experiment and that she was doing a research project on "people's responses to unexpected physical closeness". She then asked me a couple of stupid questions – "How did you feel when...?", "What crossed your mind when...?", and so on, and then both of them went away. Well, and when I... Ok, you know that already.

Sergeant
Miller:

That's very interesting what you told me. Any of these three people could have stolen your wallet. We'll examine these three encounters more closely. We have a number of video cameras in this area as we know that there are many pickpockets around here. Can you pop in tomorrow afternoon? I'm sure we'll be able to tell you more then.

[The next day...]

Sergeant
Miller:

Good afternoon, Mr Oats. Now... let me put it this way: We know the people you – or rather your jacket – came into contact with. The person who bumped into you is Bill O'Leary. He's had an impressive career as a bank robber, pickpocket, mugger and God knows what... Perhaps he was drunk when he bumped into you, but you never know...

Stephen Oats:

Quite an unpleasant fellow obviously.

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Sergeant
Miller:

Yes, indeed. The woman who gave you the jacket which you'd forgotten on your chair is Robin Fraser. She occasionally "works" as a pickpocket when people make things easy for her and you probably did.

Stephen Oats:

Oh, she was such a polite woman...

Sergeant
Miller:

Well, you can't trust anybody these days, can you. Now... the two ladies you met, I'm afraid they are no psychologists. The younger one is Alison Barron, that's the one who hugged you, her friend's name is Jennifer Aston. They normally try to get men drunk in bars and then steal their wallets, but they might have tried a new trick in your case, you never know. We made all of them come to the police station and asked them to explain their unusual behavior. Of course, we recorded what they said. I think you should listen to the recordings. The first one is Bill O'Leary, the man who bumped into you.

Bill O'Leary:

Why I bumped into this chap? Well, I had had a terrible row with my wife that morning and so I went out to have a couple of beers to calm down. Well, I might have had one or two too many and that's why I bumped into him. I didn't mean to hurt or to insult him! I'm sorry about it! I was so drunk I wouldn't even have noticed that there was a wallet in his jacket. And I apologized more than once! I'm a polite man even when I'm drunk! Why I went away so quickly? Well, Sergeant, I needed a toilet urgently, you know, after so many beers...

Sergeant
Miller:

Interesting chap, isn't he? Now let's listen to what Robin Fraser had to say.

Robin Fraser:

Of course, I ran after him and brought him the jacket. You know, he looked like a tourist, and his passport, flight ticket, hotel key, all this could be in his jacket. What would he do without them? Anyway, he was very grateful when I gave him back his jacket.

Sergeant
Miller:

And now our interview with Alison Barron, one of the two charming ladies you met near the pub.

Alison Barron:

Ok, ok, I admit it was a stupid thing to do, but we went out to have some fun, that's all. And when we saw this good-looking guy we thought "Let's find out if he likes a hug and a kiss, maybe we could go out with him and his friends in the evening and have some more fun." We really didn't mean any harm. We couldn't have known that he was such a shy bloke...

Sergeant
Miller:

Ok, one of these three people must have your wallet.