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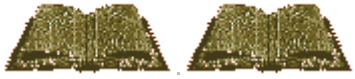
Coffee Break



The case of the murdered wife

All right. So you are tired reading this journal. Why not relax for sometime with me solving this crazy quiz. Before going further I must forewarn you that nothing has to be taken seriously here. Everything is meant to generate a good hearty laugh.

Could you solve the following Crime quiz please?

Inspector Tarun finished examining the body of Mrs. Lata Sharma which lay on the floor of her fashionable Golf Links house.

"Mrs. Sharma was struck fatally on the head with the butt of that pistol", said Inspector Tarun. "She probably was hit four or five times."

The .38 pistol had been found near the body. Forensic expert Dr. Khanna was carefully dusting it for fingerprints.

"I've telephoned her husband Arun Sharma at his office", said constable Harish, "I only told him he'd better hurry home. Hate the job of breaking the news of her murder. Will you do it?"

"All right", Tarun agreed while watching the body being taken to an ambulance. Then he sat down to wait for Arun Sharma.

The ambulance had driven off when the distraught husband burst through the front door. "What happened? Where's Lata?" he asked with great anxiety.

"I'm sorry to tell you this. She was murdered about two hours ago," said Inspector Tarun. "Your servant Matadeen found the body in the living room and telephoned me. I have checked his records and past life. He is an expert in handling a gun. In fact he was earlier in CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force)."

Sharma rushed to the servant's quarters but was stopped by Dr. Khanna, "I can't find fingerprints on the pistol." He was holding the weapon wrapped in a handkerchief. "I'll take it to the lab and examine it thoroughly."

Arun Sharma could not hold his emotions as he stared at the pistol. Suddenly he gripped Inspector Tarun's arm, "Why don't you arrest Matadeen! I am sure he clubbed my wife to death. He has an old

axe to grind against us. He had once stolen some cash and I had given him a severe beating. I did not go to the police because I did not want any complications."

"Yes, I know Matadeen once stole Rs. 1,063 from your wallet and you had given him a good beating. I have subjected him to detailed interrogation and he has confessed it. But he strongly denies having killed her. He says he went out shopping at around 2.00 p.m. At that time Lata was in her bed room and so he left the door ajar. He did not want to disturb her in her bedroom. In fact he frequently used to go out shopping leaving the door softly closed behind him. The market is not far. When he came at 2.30 p.m., he found her dead."

"I am sure it was Matadeen", said Arun Sharma after hearing Tarun.

"Don't worry, already I have found the killer," said Inspector Tarun.

Who is the killer and how did Inspector Tarun find out!

(Think up a possible solution. Or scroll through the page to find out the answer.)

No cheating, make a guess before scrolling.

Not even a wild guess before scrolling?

Answer

Arun Sharma is the killer. Arun was not informed of Lata's death by constable Harish over the phone, so if Arun was innocent he should not know Lata had died and how. When he came to his home Lata's body had been taken away, so he did not know how she died. The news of Lata's death was disclosed to Arun by Inspector Tarun, but he purposely did not tell him how she was killed. He told him that Matadeen can handle a gun because he was in CRPF. This meant that Matadeen can shoot.

Then Dr Khanna, the forensic expert, said that he can't find the fingerprints on the murder gun. By all these facts, if Arun Sharma was innocent, he should have deduced that his wife had been shot dead. Yet, he told Inspector Tarun that he was sure, Matadeen had clubbed his wife to death. How could he know that Lata was clubbed by the pistol? Naturally, because it was he who had clubbed her to death.

Do you have some interesting material for this section for our future editions? If you do, why don't you submit it? It would appear with due credit to you. It could be anything, which would generate a hearty laugh.

Yes I have Material for Coffee Break.

Coffee break appearing in the previous issue

Coffee break appearing in the next issue