

The Case of the Nervous Grandson

"I'm worried about my grandfather," Joseph Meyer told Detective Carter on the phone. "He did not meet me at the restaurant at 8:00 as he had promised. He is always very punctual and would never fail to keep his appointment with me without calling me first. We always meet at the same place on Thursday evenings at 8:00 PM. Could you possibly meet me at his apartment? How about in one hour?"

Detective Carter agreed, and he was waiting in the lobby of Henry Meyer's apartment building and talking to the doorman when Joseph emerged from a cab in front of the building.

"My grandfather told me that he thought he was being followed these last few days," explained Joseph. "He always keeps a lot of cash in the house, some of it in a safe behind the grand piano in the music room. He also had valuable works of art and a valuable coin collection. He has all the jewels that he gave my grandmother over the years too. She's been dead for four years. He was never shy about talking about his valuables."

"Did you try to call his house phone or his cell phone tonight?" asked Detective Carter.

"When he didn't come to the Water Club for dinner, I made a call to his house, but I only got the answering machine. His cell phone was off."

As they left the elevator on the penthouse floor, Detective Carter and Joseph Meyer walked quickly to Henry Meyer's large apartment. The door was unlocked and slightly open, but it did not seem that anyone had broken in. The only light on was in the foyer.

"You had better look in the music room," Detective Carter suggested.

Joseph nodded in compliance and led the way. He stopped at the door of the large, dark room. "I think there is a lamp on the piano on the other side of the room," he said, and moved into the darkness. A second later the room was full of light. Right behind the piano there was a small safe on the wall, and the black metal door was open. The body of old Henry Meyer was stretched immobile on the floor in front of the piano, in the middle of the room.

Joseph ran over to his grandfather and knelt down beside him. The detective followed. "He's not dead, is he?" Joseph asked hesitatingly.

"No, he is just knocked out," explained Detective Carter. "It must have been a large object to the head that hurt him. Lucky for you he's still alive! You really tried hard to trick me, but one thing you did gave yourself away. It is clear that it was you who did this. You slipped up once, but that's one time too many times with me."

WHAT MISTAKE DID JOSEPH MEYER MAKE?