

Death at the Shivering Sand

It had rained in the night, and that morning there was a strong wind and there were dark clouds in the sky. Sergeant Cuff planned to go to Frizinghall to continue his investigation there. When he walked out of the house, Betteredge and Franklin were in the garden. Although Franklin had been happy to see Cuff arrive the day before, he was now worried that the sergeant suspected that Rachel herself had hidden the diamond somewhere.

‘Is it true that Rosanna Spearman came to speak to you last night?’ asked Sergeant Cuff.

‘I have nothing to say,’ replied Franklin.

Just then, Rosanna Spearman and Penelope walked into the garden, near enough to hear the conversation.

‘If you have Rosanna’s interests at heart, Mr Franklin, you will explain everything,’ continued Cuff.

‘I have no interest at all in Rosanna Spearman,’ replied Franklin coldly.

‘I see,’ said Sergeant Cuff, and he walked on to Frizinghall.



Not long after the rest of the family had finished breakfast, Penelope came to tell her father some worrying news.

‘I’m afraid, Father,’ she explained, ‘that Mr Franklin’s unkind words have hurt Rosanna deeply. She has become very quiet and is working like a woman in a dream.’

Betteredge, who always felt sorry for Rosanna, went to talk to her. He explained that Franklin had spoken unkindly because he was angry with the sergeant. Rosanna said that she understood, but she still looked miserable.

‘Is there something you want to tell me?’ asked Betteredge.

‘No,’ replied Rosanna. ‘But there is something I want to tell Mr Franklin.’

‘Mr Franklin has gone for a walk,’ said Betteredge.

‘It doesn’t matter, then. I won’t trouble Mr Franklin today.’ answered Rosanna.

Betteredge wanted to call the doctor to see Rosanna, but Dr Candy had caught a bad cold after Rachel’s birthday party. He then went to talk to Lady Verinder, but she was busy helping Rachel to prepare her luggage. Rachel was very troubled about the lost diamond and she had decided to go and stay with her aunt and uncle – Godfrey Ablewhite’s parents – in Frizinghall.

Just before two o’clock, Sergeant Cuff returned from Frizinghall. He had spoken to Mr Murthwaite about the dancers. Murthwaite was sure that the Indians had not stolen the diamond.

‘But they are still looking for it,’ warned Murthwaite. ‘And they are clever enough to be able to find it!’

Then, Sergeant Cuff had asked about Rosanna Spearman. He found out that she had been to a shop on Thursday afternoon (the afternoon when she had pretended to be ill) and had bought some **cloth** – the kind of cloth that people use to make nightgowns.

At two o’clock Rachel came downstairs. She was wearing a soft yellow dress and jacket, and a hat. She usually looked gentle, but now her eyes shone **fiercely**. She got into the **carriage**, while Lady Verinder, Sergeant Cuff and the servants stood at the door. Just then, Franklin ran up.

‘Goodbye, Rachel,’ he shouted after her.



'Drive on!' said Rachel to the driver, and she did not even turn to look at Franklin as she left.

Although Franklin and Rachel had been such good friends, she refused, in front of everyone, to say goodbye to him. Franklin was deeply hurt.

Sergeant Cuff was now sure that Rachel had the Moonstone with her, and he went quickly to question Rosanna Spearman. But Rosanna had disappeared.



About an hour before, one of the servants had seen Rosanna; she was running towards the Shivering Sand. Sergeant Cuff and Betteredge ran to find her as fast as they could. As they got nearer to the beach, the clouds grew darker and it started to rain. They saw Rosanna's small **footprints** going into the sand, but Betteredge and Cuff could go no further. This was the Shivering Sand; if anyone stepped into that part of the beach, the sand pulled them down within minutes. The sea was coming in quickly. There was no escape.

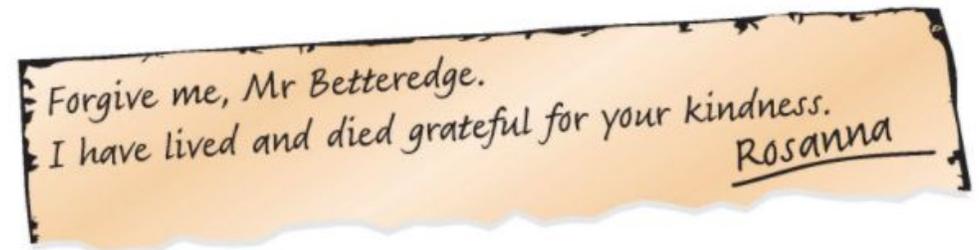
There was no escape.

'She has killed herself!' cried Betteredge, as he remembered Rosanna's sad face earlier that morning.

'What do you mean?' asked Cuff. 'We must save her!'

'Oh no, Sergeant Cuff. What the Sand gets, the Sand keeps.'

Betteredge and Cuff returned to the house in silence. They found a note in Rosanna's room.



When Lady Verinder heard the news, she called Sergeant Cuff to her room immediately.

'Why did Rosanna take her own life?' she asked him.

'Rosanna didn't steal the diamond, but she was worried about another person – your daughter! I suspect that Rachel has taken

her own diamond and that she now has the Moonstone with her.'

'Sergeant Cuff, as Rachel's mother, I must tell you that you are wrong about her.'

'Madam, please think about the facts more carefully. Miss Rachel refused to have her clothes examined; she was clearly angry with Mr Franklin today because he is the person who has helped most in this investigation; and finally, I think that she asked Rosanna Spearman to help her. Rosanna was once a thief and she knew jewellers in London who could buy a jewel like the Moonstone. Miss Rachel needed Rosanna to help her sell the diamond.'

Lady Verinder listened silently. Then after a moment she said: 'I will go to Rachel and tell her about Rosanna's death. I'm sure that she will tell me the **truth**.'

And Lady Verinder left immediately for Frizinghall.

Later that evening, a letter from Lady Verinder arrived for Sergeant Cuff.

Rachel told me - I feel truthfully - that she has not seen the diamond since she put it in the cabinet on the night of her birthday, and that she never spoke to Rosanna Spearman about the diamond.

With the letter came a **cheque** to pay Sergeant Cuff. Cuff prepared to go back to London that evening.

Franklin also received a letter from Lady Verinder. It said that although she was very grateful for all Franklin's help, she felt it was better if he didn't try to see Rachel again for some time.

'When I came here with that diamond, this was the happiest house in England,' thought Franklin. 'And now the mystery of the jewel has destroyed the happiness of this family. The Moonstone has indeed brought the revenge that Colonel Herncastle was looking for.'

READING CHECK

1 Correct seven more mistakes in the chapter summary.

The next morning, Rosanna Spearman goes into the garden with ~~Rachel~~ Penelope. She hears Franklin Blake tell Sergeant Cuff and Betteredge that he's not interested in her. Rosanna is deeply hurt by Franklin's words and she looks very happy all morning. Betteredge comes to talk to Rosanna but she says that she wants to talk to Lady Verinder. At two o'clock in the afternoon, Rachel leaves to go and stay with her cousin Godfrey in Frizinghall. After she has left, Sergeant Cuff wants to speak to Rosanna. He and Betteredge follow her to the Yollands' cottage. But they are too late. Rosanna has already walked onto the dangerous path and it has pulled her under. Sergeant Cuff and Betteredge can't forgive her. 'She has killed herself,' says Sergeant Cuff.

2 Use the correct names to complete Sergeant Cuff's notes about the investigation.

- a** This morning I went to Frizinghall to continue my investigations.
- b** Before leaving, I asked Franklin Blake about his conversation with .
- c** I spoke to Mr about the three Indian dancers.
- d** I found out that pretended to be ill and went to Frizinghall to do some shopping.
- e** When Miss Rachel left this afternoon, she refused to say goodbye to .
- f** I think that Rosanna Spearman killed herself because she was helping to hide the Moonstone.
- g** has gone to Frizinghall to tell Rachel about Rosanna's death.

WORD WORK

Find the words in the beach to complete the sentences.



- a** He is very honest and always tells the truth
- b** You can pay by credit card or by if you want.
- c** We went to a large shop to buy some to make covers for the armchairs.
- d** Before people had cars, they travelled by horse and .
- e** Robinson Crusoe was alone on his island until one day he discovered a in the sand.
- f** The army fought and won the battle.

GUESS WHAT

Match the sentence halves to find out what happens in the next chapter.

- | | |
|---|---|
| a Franklin decides to . . . | 1 write her will. |
| b Lady Verinder takes Rachel to London to . . . | 2 go abroad. |
| c Godfrey Ablewhite goes to . . . | 3 tell her about an attack by three Indians. |
| d Rachel agrees to . . . | 4 forget about the diamond. |
| e Rachel wants Godfrey to . . . | 5 marry Godfrey. |
| f Lady Verinder calls the family lawyer to . . . | 6 visit Rachel and Lady Verinder in London. |