

## The investigation

Franklin Blake immediately **suspected** that the Indians who had been at the house the day before had taken the stone. Betteredge agreed that they were interested in the Moonstone, but he had locked all the doors and windows before he went to bed. It had not been possible for anyone to get into – or out of – the house that night.

Franklin went to Frizinghall to speak to the police, and later that morning Detective Seagrave arrived at the house. Seagrave suspected that one of the servants had taken the jewel, and he put his policemen to guard their rooms. Then he went to Rachel's sitting room to begin the **investigation**. All the servants hurried after him to **protest** about the policemen in front of their room doors. But Seagrave told them to leave him alone.

'And be more careful!' he said as he pointed to a **smear** in the paint work at the bottom of the sitting room door. 'Look what you've done with your skirts!'

The servants left and the detective continued to **examine** Rachel's room. Suddenly Rachel came out of her bedroom and

said to Detective Seagrave: 'I don't want you here. My diamond is lost and you will never find it!'



The detective's search did not find one **clue**. Franklin decided to ask his father to send a better policeman from London. He called Betteredge to the library. When Betteredge arrived, Rosanna Spearman was coming out of the library door. Betteredge waited for her to leave and then went into the room.

'Ah, Betteredge,' said Franklin. 'Get a horse ready for me. I need to take this letter to Frizinghall. But,' he continued, 'before you go, I must say that Rosanna seems to know a lot about the Moonstone.'

'Why? What did she say?' asked Betteredge carefully. He did not want to say anything about Rosanna's past life as a thief or her time in prison.

**suspect** to think that someone has done something wrong

**investigation** something that a detective does to understand how or why a crime has happened

### protest

something that you do to say or show that you do not like something; to say or show that you do not like something

**smear** a mark that is made by moving against paint when it is still wet

### examine

to look carefully at something

### clue

something that helps you to understand a mystery or a crime

'She said, "They will never find the diamond, nor the person who took it!" and then she smiled at me! What does she mean?'

'I don't know, sir, but I will talk to Lady Verinder about it.'

Betteredge left to get a horse ready for Franklin. As he went past the dining room, he noticed that Rosanna was not eating lunch with the others. She had told them she was feeling ill and had gone to her room to lie down.

Later that afternoon, Franklin rode over to Frizinghall to send the letter to his father. And that same afternoon, a woman who looked very like Rosanna Spearman was seen walking quickly along the road to Frizinghall.



The next day, Detective **Sergeant** Cuff arrived from London on the morning train.

'Sergeant Cuff – the best detective in the country!' thought Franklin.

Sergeant Cuff was a very serious man. He had grey hair, wore a dark suit and a white tie, and he never smiled. Cuff went immediately to examine Rachel's room. He soon noticed the smear near the bottom of the painted door.

'Interesting,' said Cuff. 'Someone has walked past the door and made this smear, with a long skirt perhaps, or a **nightgown**. I wonder when this happened? When was the door painted and how long does the paint take to dry?'

'We painted this bit of the door on Wednesday, Rachel's birthday,' explained Franklin. 'We finished at three o'clock in the afternoon. The paint takes twelve hours to dry.'

At that moment, Rachel **burst out** of her bedroom. She stared angrily at Franklin, and spoke to Sergeant Cuff: 'Do not allow this man to help you in your investigation!'

'Thank you for your help, Miss Rachel,' said Cuff calmly. 'And do you know anything about this smear on the door?'

'No!' said Rachel, and she went back into her bedroom.

Penelope had been the last person to go into Rachel's room on

**sergeant** an important policeman

**nightgown** a long dress that men and women used to wear to go to bed

go to bed

**burst out** (*past burst out*) to come out of something, or to start to do something, suddenly



the night the Moonstone disappeared. Sergeant Cuff went to ask her about the smear.

‘I left Miss Rachel’s room at midnight,’ said Penelope. ‘There was no smear on the door then. And I was very careful with my skirts not to make a smear!’

‘I see,’ said Cuff. ‘So the smear was made between midnight, when Miss Rachel went to bed on the night of her birthday, and three o’clock on Thursday morning. I think we have an important clue here.’

Sergeant Cuff went to speak to Lady Verinder. ‘We must find out who, or what, made the smear on Rachel’s door,’ he said.

‘And then will we find the thief?’ asked Lady Verinder.

‘At the moment, Madam, I do not say that the diamond was stolen. I say only that the diamond is missing. When we find the clothes that have paint on them, we will learn where the diamond is. I need to examine the clothes of everyone who stayed here on the night of the party.’

Lady Verinder agreed, but Rachel refused to let anyone examine her clothes. If Rachel did not agree, then it was useless for Cuff to examine other people’s clothes. He stopped his search for the

paint smear and decided to speak to all of the servants, one by one. He found out that on Thursday evening, the night after the Moonstone had disappeared, there had been a light on in Rosanna Spearman’s room all night. Did her nightgown have paint on it? Was she making a new nightgown to hide the fact?

That afternoon, Cuff saw Rosanna walking away from the house and he decided to follow her. She went into a small **cottage** in a fishing village not far from the Shivering Sand. The cottage was the home of a fisherman called Yolland, and his daughter, Lucy, and Rosanna were close friends. When Rosanna left the cottage she was carrying something under her coat, and she walked quickly towards the Shivering Sand.

Later that evening, before it got dark, Sergeant Cuff went back to the fisherman’s cottage and asked about Rosanna’s visit.

**cottage** a small house in the country



‘Rosanna came here this afternoon to write a letter,’ explained Mrs Yolland. ‘She told me that she is going to leave her job with Lady Verinder! I don’t know what the poor girl will do. She asked me for some things to help her move. I gave her a small box, like the one that sailors use to keep their maps dry, and a heavy **chain**. She said that she wanted the chain for her luggage.’

Sergeant Cuff thanked Mrs Yolland for her help, and went back to the house. He knew that Rosanna had been a thief, but he did

*He decided to follow her.*



nothing to help the investigation to find it. He thought that Rachel had probably asked Rosanna to help her hide the jewel.

Sergeant Cuff thanked Mrs Yolland for her help, and went back to the house. He knew that Rosanna had been a thief, but he did not suspect that she had stolen the diamond. The person that he suspected was Rachel herself; she had lost her diamond, but did nothing to help the investigation to find it. He thought that Rachel had probably asked Rosanna to help her hide the jewel.

That night, Betteredge was walking across the hall to lock the front door, when Franklin ran out of the library.

'Betteredge,' Franklin said in a worried voice. 'There's something wrong with Rosanna. She came into the library just now and she wanted to tell me something. I'm sorry to say this, Betteredge, but I think that perhaps she wanted to tell me that she had stolen the diamond!'

Both Franklin and Betteredge knew that Rachel's behaviour had been **suspicious**. But it was easier for the family to suspect that a poor servant like Rosanna had taken the diamond, than the young lady of the house.

'I wish to God that the Moonstone had never found its way into this house,' replied Betteredge.

**chain** a long string of metal that is very strong

**suspicious** when you think something shows that someone has done something bad

## READING CHECK

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences.

- a** The servants are angry with Detective Seagrave because he . . .
- doesn't find any clues.
  - thinks that one of them has stolen the diamond.
  - notices the paint smear on the door of Rachel's sitting room.
- b** Rachel . . .
- tries to help the investigation.
  - doesn't want to help the investigation.
  - tells Sergeant Cuff about the paint smear on her door.
- c** The paint smear is an important clue because . . .
- Cuff needs to examine everyone's clothes.
  - it was made after midnight.
  - it can show the person that took
- d** Rosanna went to the Yollands' cottage . . .
- to hide the Moonstone.
  - to see her friend Lucy.
  - to write a letter.
- e** Sergeant Cuff thinks that . . .
- Rachel knows where the Moonstone is.
  - Rosanna stole the Moonstone.
  - the Moonstone is at the Yollands' cottage.
- f** Franklin is worried about Rosanna because . . .
- she is ill.
  - she wants to tell him something.
  - he is in love with her.

## WORD WORK

**Find words from Chapter 3 to match the underlined words in these sentences.**

- a** Detective Seagrave is the first to notice the mark made by moving against wet paint on Rachel's door. ....smear.....
- b** Franklin thinks that something wrong was done by the Indians.
- c** Detective Seagrave starts to look carefully in Rachel's room.
- d** Franklin is very happy when Sergeant Cuff comes to continue the finding out of how the crime happened.
- e** Rosanna wants a long string of metal to put around her luggage.
- f** In the 1800s, a man or woman wore a long dress when he or she went to bed.
- g** The Yolland family live in a small house in a fishing village.
- h** Rachel is angry about losing her diamond and when she wants to say something she comes suddenly out of her room.
- i** The police look around the house trying to find things that will help them to understand the mystery.
- j** Rachel disagrees strongly when Sergeant Cuff wants to look at everyone's clothes to try and find the paint mark.
- k** Rachel's behaviour was showing that she had done something bad.



## GUESS WHAT

What do you think happens in the next chapter? Complete the sentences with the names.



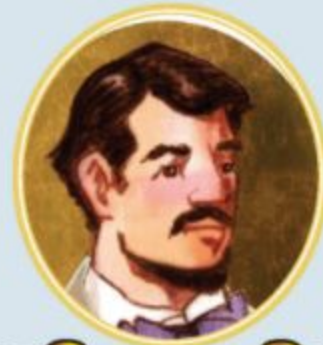
Rachel



Rosanna



Murthwaite



Franklin



Betteredge

- a ..... leaves Lady Verinder's house.
- b ..... wants to tell Franklin something.
- c ..... tells Sergeant Cuff that the Indians did not steal the Moonstone.
- d Sergeant Cuff suspects that ..... has the diamond.
- e ..... dies at the Shivering Sand.