

A Surprise at the Museum

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Level 1

400 Headwords



CHAPTER 1

Detective Dan was at work. He was at his desk. He was a **detective**. It was his job to solve crimes.

Today was his birthday. He had a coffee and a doughnut. It was a special birthday doughnut. Before he ate his doughnut, the phone rang. *RING! RING!*

Detective Dan answered the phone.

“Hello,” he said. “This is Detective Dan.”

It was his friend, Jean. She worked in the museum.

“Come quickly!” said Jean.

“Why?” said Dan. “What happened?”

“There was a **theft** at the museum,” she said. “A **thief** took a special **statue!**”

Dan was excited. He was a detective because he loved to solve crimes.

“Do not worry,” he said. “I will find the special statue and arrest the thief.”

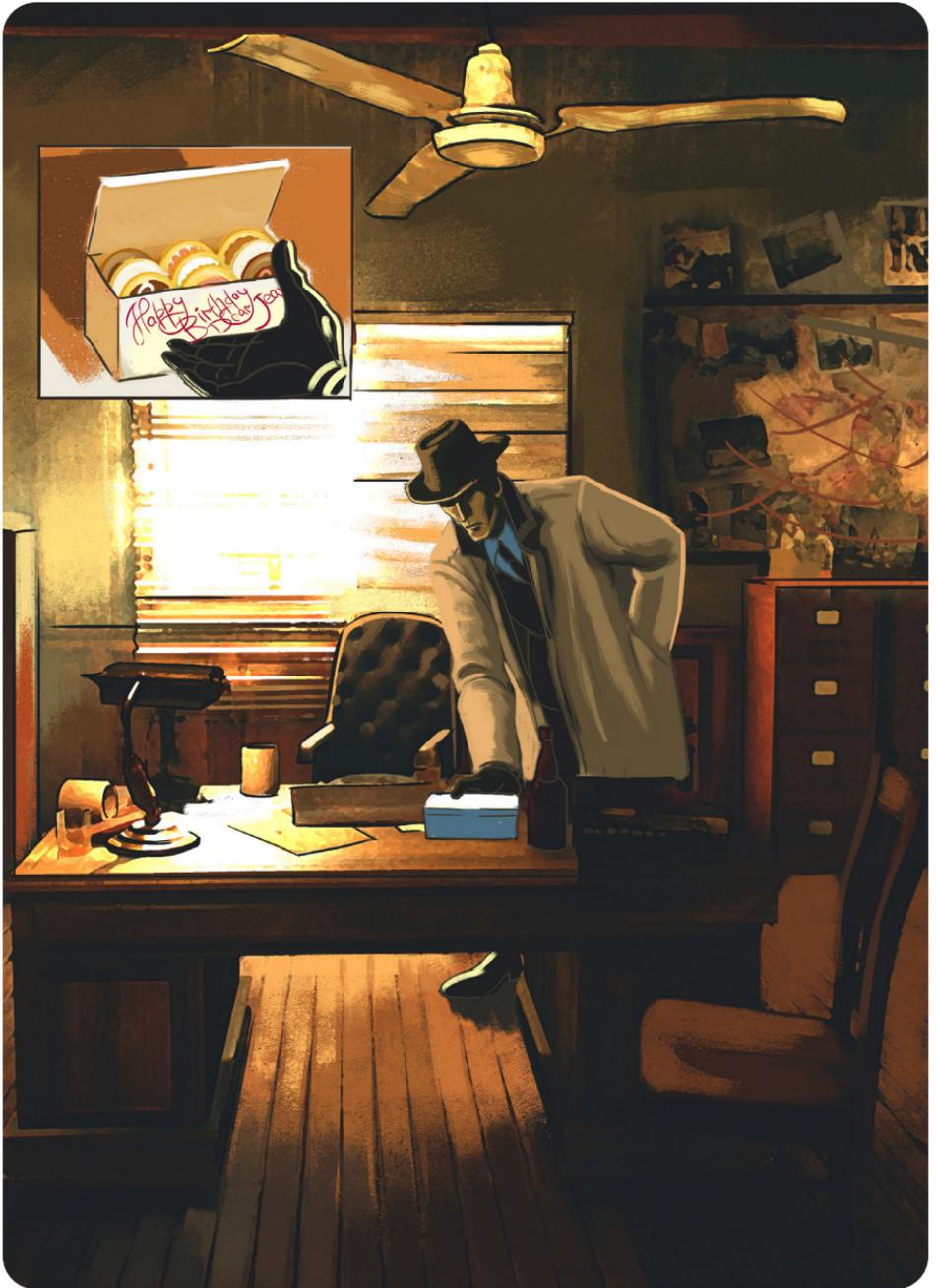
He ran out of the door. Then he ran back in to get his coat and the doughnut.

detective (noun) a person whose job is to find information about crimes

theft (noun) the act of stealing from a person or a place

thief (noun) a person who steals something

statue (noun) a figure of a person or an animal made from stone, metal, etc.



He ran back in to get his coat and the doughnut.

Detective Dan went to the museum. The museum was big. It was old and special. It was made of grey stone, and it had **columns** outside. Inside the museum, there were lots of special, old things.

When Dan got to the museum, it was very busy. Lots of people visited the museum. It was very popular. There was a **queue** to get in. Detective Dan went to the front of the queue. There was a security guard. The security guard was not happy.

“I need to get inside,” said Detective Dan.

“No,” said the security guard. “There is a queue. You must wait your turn.”

The queue was very long. Dan did not want to wait. There was a crime to solve! Someone took a special statue! He needed to find the statue and arrest the thief!

“You don’t understand,” said Dan. “It is very important. I need to get inside the museum now.”

The security guard folded his arms and shook his head. No.

“I will find another way in,” thought Dan.

column (noun) a long stone post that it used as a support in a building

queue (noun) a line of people who are waiting for something

He saw a van. There were boxes inside. People took the boxes inside the museum. Dan picked up a box. He went to the door. There was another security guard.

“Where do I put this box?” said Dan.

The security guard pointed inside the museum.

“Put it in there, please,” she said.

Detective Dan smiled. He was clever. He found a way inside the museum.



*Detective Dan smiled. He was clever.
He found a way inside the museum.*

Detective Dan was inside the museum. He saw a police officer. The police officer was outside the function room. The door was closed. Dan went to the officer. The officer saw him and looked worried.

“I’m sorry, Detective Dan,” he said. “You can’t go in there.”

“Why not?” said Dan.

A woman arrived. It was Jean. She had dark brown hair. She wore a blue dress with high **heels**.

“There you are,” she said.

She took him to the gallery opposite the café. This was the scene of the crime. The statue usually stood on a **plinth** in the gallery. But someone took the statue, so now the plinth was empty.

“We looked at the security cameras,” said Jean. “The statue was there before 7 a.m., but after 8 a.m., it was gone. Someone took the statue between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m.”

Detective Dan got out his notebook. He listened and took notes.

heel (noun) the raised part on the bottom of the shoe

plinth (noun) a block of stone used as the base for a statue



Detective Dan got out his notebook. He listened and took notes.

“There are no broken windows or doors, so someone inside the museum took the statue,” said Jean. “There were four people inside the museum between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m.”

“Who are they?” said Dan.

“They are the cleaner, the night security guard, the waiter, and the ticket seller,” said Jean.

These people were **suspects**. One of them was the thief. They couldn’t go home. Dan needed to **interview** each one.

“I will ask them questions,” said Dan. “I will find the truth.”

suspect (noun) a person who is believed to be guilty of a crime

interview (verb) to ask questions

QUIZZES

Quiz 2

Choose the correct version of the verbs.

1. Dan his phone quickly. (answer / answered)
2. Someone the statue last night. (take / took)
3. The detective the suspects.
(interview / interviewed)
4. The guard the people on the security cameras.
(watch / watches)
5. John Megan to dinner. (invite / invited)
6. She is for clues at the crime scene.
(searching / searched)
7. He was about his friend.
(worries / worried)
8. The waiter coffee and cake to the customers.
(serve / served)
9. They their tickets from the front desk yesterday.
(buy / bought)
10. They solved the crime and the thief.
(catch / caught)

VOCABULARY QUIZZES

Quiz 1

Complete the sentences with the words below.

museum **key** **chase** **solve** **notebook**
doughnut **clue** **queue** **crime** **surprise**

1. She made notes in her with a pencil.
2. The dog likes to the cat, but he's only playing.
3. I am sure my dad is going to have a for me tonight because today is my birthday.
4. The woman went to prison for a terrible
5. There was a long of visitors outside the museum.
6. I like to the puzzles in my magazine.
7. Amy didn't have a where Jack's shoes were.
8. A has old and interesting things.
9. You need a to unlock a door.
10. A is a yummy treat.