

The Mira Press

FOR STUDENTS
BY STUDENTS

THE DUMMIES'
GUIDE TO MYSTERIES

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Knock! Knock!

Who's there?

Stopwatch

Stopwatch who?

Stopwatch you're doing and pay attention!

Now that I have your attention, greetings to you lovely people! We all talk about secrets, problems, puzzles and riddles quite often. However, can we solve any of them? Crimes like robberies, murders, kidnappings and so on are not ones that everyone can solve. Things that end up having no valid explanation or need serious investigation are naturally considered to be part of a mystery. We come across various suspects, leads and evidence to solve these cool mysteries. We all know how cool Sherlock Holmes was. After all, it was because of his deduction and intellect that he was such a great detective. But are you even 20% as smart as him? Want to find out? Well, we got you covered. The upcoming articles will blow your mind with the mysteries you read and most importantly, we have mysteries for you to solve. Let's find out how much of a genius you are. :P

A MYSTERY IS NO MYSTERY

-Vasudha Ramani

SYBA



Are you one of those people who get goosebumps not just at night but in the middle of the day too, while reading a book or watching an ominous film?

A good mystery always sends chills down your spine, but have you ever wondered why that happens? What makes a mystery worth it? Because let's face it, we have all imagined ourselves in the scenarios of our favorite stories. A mystery is only as good as the journey behind finding the solution. You can have one of the most mysterious plots that can cause people to feel incredible levels of excitement, but without a good journey, the story will be disappointing.

Therefore journey is directly proportional to glee with suspense as a constant (Hehe).

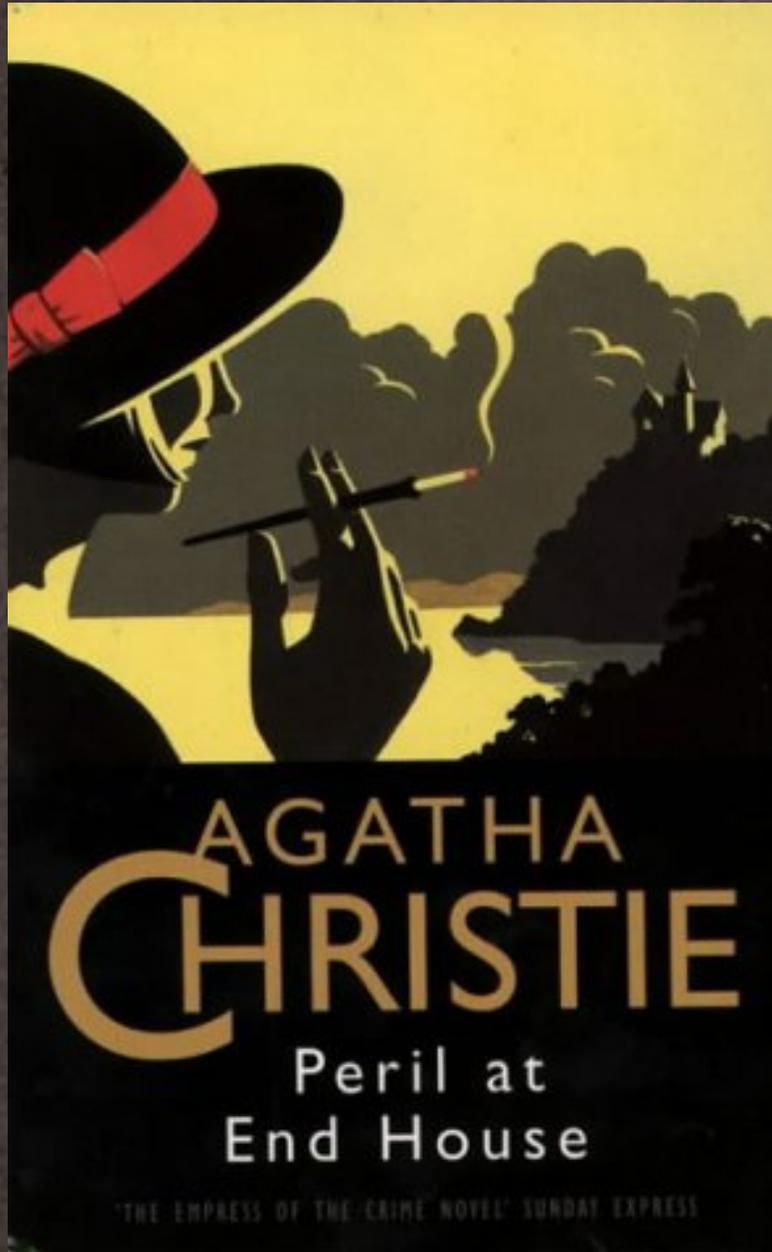


A MYSTERY IS NO MYSTERY

A mystery is all about creating plots that one can never see coming even in their wildest dreams. Those are the mysteries and stories that are enjoyable. The investigation, the feeling of your heart racing because of adrenaline and so on, are no doubt the contributing factors in the making of mysteries.



A very classic way of creating a mystery is making the victim the actual culprit.



One of the best examples of this kind of a plot is seen in 'Peril at End House' by Agatha Christie where the lady who was making herself look like the target of a murder was actually the murderer.

The examples have no end. These mysteries will always be

waiting for you to experience the rush of adrenalin again and again.

So, pull out your glasses and bring out your inner detective and try to figure out the greatest mystery of all time. Now tell me, who came first: the chicken or the egg? Solve the mystery and you are officially a detective ;)



CAN YOU DECODE THIS MYSTERY?

Dr. Miller was staying with his cousin, Alfred, in Alfred's lakeside cabin. They were setting up Alfred's will. Dr. Miller was Alfred's dearest living relative, much of Alfred's estate was being left to him. One day, Alfred went to Dr. Miller very upset. "Doctor," he began, "I have just found out that an old enemy is out to get me. He is coming very soon. Where will I go? Where can I hide? If he finds me, he will surely kill me. I do not have time to leave this cabin and hide in the woods."



CAN YOU DECODE THIS MYSTERY?

Dr. Miller thought for a moment, and then grabbed a 5' long bamboo fishing pole, with a diameter the size of a quarter. "Alfred, follow me out to the lake. This lake is 4' deep. If you lie on the bottom of the lake and breathe through this pole, your enemy will never find you. I will be in the bulrushes with a shotgun and a ranger. I will shoot him when he comes and we will swim down to find you when he is gone."



CAN YOU DECODE THIS MYSTERY?

Alfred thought that was a great idea and went down in the lake with the bamboo pole in his mouth. A few hours later, the ranger and Dr. Miller passed by to check on him and found Alfred's body. They told the police of the circumstance, and that Alfred had probably panicked, and died. Police arrested Dr. Miller on the charge of murdering Alfred. Why? How could he have done it, when he was with the ranger all along..



SINGING SAND DUNES

~Lavina Waghalekar
SYBA

Yes everyone, apparently the Earth is singing! Well maybe not the planet itself, but a number of sand dunes across the globe — in at least 35 deserts from California and Africa to China and Qatar — are definitely making some intense noise.

Singing sand dunes: To give an example of the phenomenon of singing sand,



a sound described as roaring, booming, or squeaking is produced, called the "Song of Dunes". This is a natural sound phenomenon of up to 105 decibels, lasting as long as several minutes which occurs in about 35 desert locations around the world.

SINGING SAND DUNES

The sound is similar to a loud low-pitch rumble. It emanates from crescent-shaped dunes or barchans.



The sound emission accompanies a slumping or avalanching movement of sand, usually triggered by wind passing over the dune or by someone walking near the crest. It is really fascinating to hear about these mysteries, I believe we as humans really get attracted to things that no one has been able to solve and just come up with crazy theories about it for generations.

SINGING SAND DUNES

I remember when I was around 15-16 years old, I used to spend hours on YouTube searching for such mysteries and end up having scary dreams because I genuinely used to get scared after seeing these videos, but it didn't stop me from exploring these mysteries.



Want to know about this interesting factual story? Well, Here you go -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yFaMsUawi4>

BYOMKESH AND FELUDA

-Rinita Adhikary
SYBA

What? You haven't heard of any of them? Well, you naive child let me enlighten you!

Welcome to the day of a typical Bengali household having a debate of who's better. Although both the detectives have been heavily influenced by Sherlock Holmes, they have been the staple of crime fiction fans since the 1930s.



মগজাস্ত্র' (brains!)

The marvelous Satyajit Ray in his 40's created this short story with very little crime, featuring the aesthetic

relationship between the young boy "Topshe" and his cousin Prodosh Mitra "Feluda". The novel fanatics promptly admired them and soon became 'Bengal's very own Sherlock Holmes!



BYOMKESH AND FELUDA

Well, if he would have physically been present here, we wouldn't have been denied a 'Mystery date!'



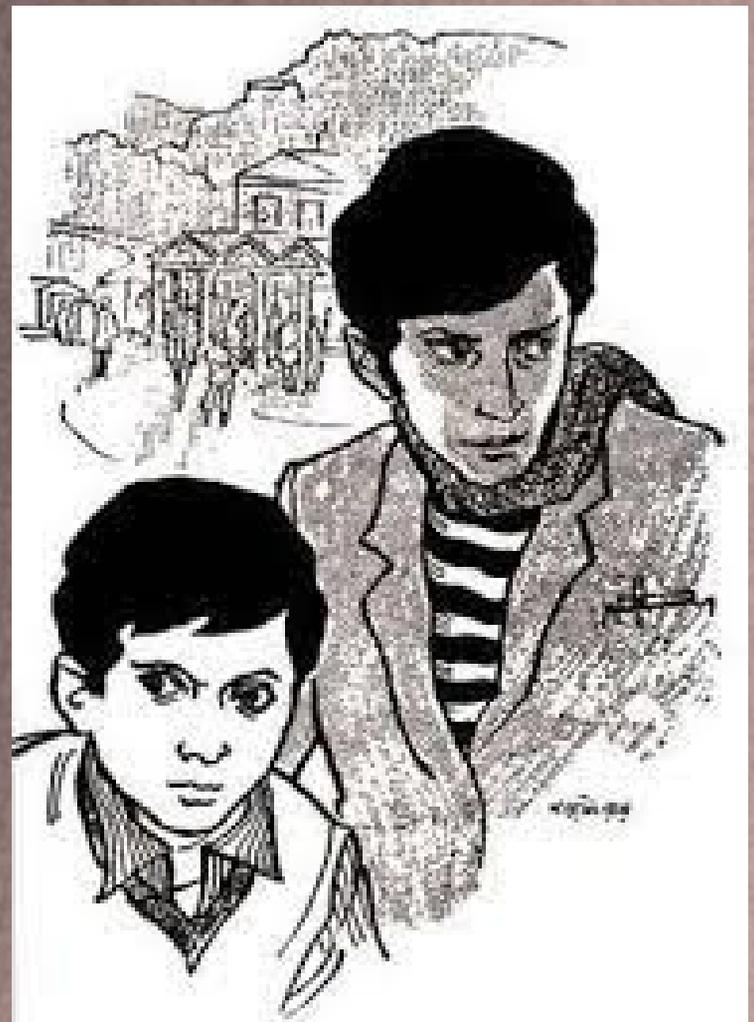
If you love crimes and mysteries, well then mate you must read or watch them now!

The famed 'Satyenweshi' (truthful) Byomkesh Bakshi, whom you might have seen in movies, is another character who is relished by all.

Set in the 1930s created by Sharadindu Bandhopandhay, a sharp educated man in his 20's wearing a white shirt and dhoti with a draping shawl. Unlike Feluda, he doesn't own a gun but possesses a habit of smoking.

However, I would prefer Feluda over Byomkesh for very stout reasons. Except for the fact that I can't have a debate for someone who doesn't know any of them!

Anyways, I'm off to watch Feluda again...Joy Baba Felunath!!!



ARTWORK



Find all the bats hidden in the painting.

Elizabeth Thomas

TYBA

CODE BLUE

-Chandana Roy

TYBA

On a cold, stormy morning in the town of Huntington. The sky lay overcast with no hope for its citizens. Swan Lake high was overflowing with students and for one reason or another every student had the whole emo and dark personality going on. However, Maddison and her friend Tyler weren't the sort of kids to conform to the "trend". They were immune to whatever sort of dark transformation that had taken over the school. "I mean c'mon 'Swan Lake', there is nothing dark and trendy in that name! How does the entire school have different personalities altogether every year, except us?" asked Tyler.

So obviously since they were different from everyone else, the rest of the students gave them the cold shoulder. This didn't seem to bother any of them and life just went on.



Maddison and Tyler were known for solving mysteries in Huntington and were a smashing team back then. Until everything changed on a Monday morning.

This was going to be a new school year and Maddison said, “Ah, another year with a fresh set of exchange students to deal with. I mean who wouldn’t love high school right?” Tyler picked up on her sarcasm and sniggered. At that exact moment their math teacher introduced the new exchange student.

“Bonjour everyone, I’m Elina and it is very interesting to be at a high school as amazing as yours, can’t wait to get to know all of you!” said Elina.

CODE BLUE

“Dude, is she really talking about our high school?” whispered Maddison to Tyler. He shrugged.



Elina had long swirly jet-black hair, a colourful personality and was nothing like the other students, she was pretty optimistic about everything. Soon she got along with Tyler and Maddison.

“Woah! I love your hair, what did you do to it?” asked Elina, touching Maddison’s brunette hair. “Um I combed it?”, said Maddison. She gave Tyler a look to change the subject.

“So, which high school were you in before you transferred here?”, he asked. Elina gave a rather perplexed expression and after a while, replied saying that it was this fancy french high school. Honestly, no questions were asked since neither Tyler nor Maddison knew french. The bell rang and they were dismissed for lunch break. Elina started hanging out with Tyler and Maddison.

CODE BLUE

Towards the end of the last class, there was a scream and everyone gathered in the assembly hall.

The principal, Mr. Graham, addressed the students and told them that a student, Daniel Peters had gone missing.

The scream belonged to none other than his best friend, Julian. His locker had a weird blue fluid which said “Daniel is gone, you’re next!”



There was a lot of tension that broke out in Swan Lake. Everyone was in a state of shock. The suspect could be lurking anywhere.

Tyler and Maddison decided to take a look at the fluid and there was a strong pungent smell that was almost acidic.

CODE BLUE

Suddenly the hallway seemed to spin and the world felt blurry to them both. They could see Elina with a smirk on her face before they passed out.

They woke up but not in a way either expected. They had both become adults and had apparently graduated Swanlake High! Everything in Huntington had changed from 2019 to 2032. They were both accountants now.



“Wait! We were still in high school; how did all of this happen?” asked Tyler in shock. Maddison was speechless. No one in the town knew who Elina was and denied her existence. After digging around from the internet and the newspaper archives, they were able to uncover the biggest mystery that had always been under their noses.

CODE BLUE

Why was it that Swan Lake high's students had a change in their personalities? The school was built on the grounds of an alien psychological experiment centre.

It all started to fit in. It was only when exchange students came that the personality of the entire school changed, barring two students. It had nothing to do with pop culture. The names of the exchange students were always: 'Nalie', 'Lieran' and 'Elina'. "Oh my god! Those are all anagrams for alien!" exclaimed Tyler and Maddison in shock.

Over the years they had jumped time, many students had disappeared followed by a message for the next victim. No matter how much protection was given to them, the perpetrator managed to get away with the victims.

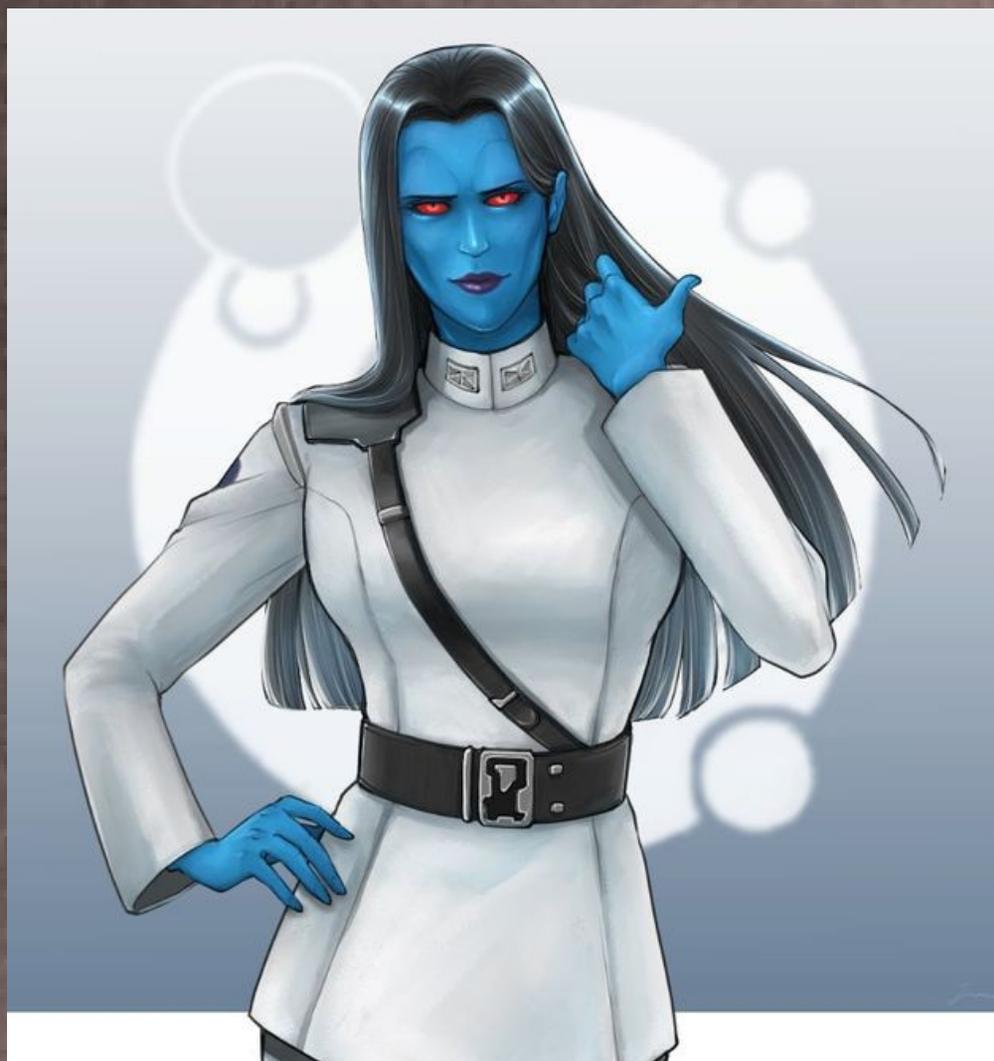
The blue fluid which led them to this time jump was called 'plutonium'. Any student who tried to investigate the disappearances also ended up vanishing without any evidence left behind. The fluid was not enough evidence for the police to keep going.

CODE BLUE

Each year there were always students who failed to conform to the trends and disappeared mysteriously.

Like Maddison and Tyler, many other students with them were equally confused and at this point they weren't sure what they were to do in this situation.

It was a new day at Swan Lake High and the new principal addressed the listless batch of students, "Good morning, I am your new principal, Elina. I'm sure we will have a lot of fun experimenting this year!" Her lips curved into an evil smirk as she looked at the new set of lab rats.



WOMAN OF THE RAIN

-Isha Bhagwat

You are standing in your living room, feeling as though you're being watched. You see the painting that you recently bought and it looks like the woman's eyes are staring right at you, sending shivers down your spine. You see unnatural shadows all around, but they could just be a trick of the light. This is what many people have experienced when they bought the famous painting called "Woman of the Rain".

The painting was bought several times, but the buyers always begged to return it back .

Now the painting hangs in the Vinnytsia salon "Merckx-furniture" on the streets of Kiev. Customers who visit the shop today claim that sometimes you can catch the painting smiling and to some, there is often a glance of anger.

WOMAN OF THE RAIN

The story goes that artist Svetlana Telets painted the painting in less than 5 hours and felt during those hours that a hand was guiding her. Svetlana stated she felt as if someone was always with her and one day she had the urge to draw and believes she captured who watches over her.



“In 1996 I graduated from the Odessa Art University. And for six months before the birth of “Woman of the rain”, I always felt like someone was watching me. But I often drove such thoughts away. Then, one day, by the way it wasn’t a rainy day at all, I was sitting in front of a blank canvas and thought of what I could draw. Suddenly I saw clearly the contours of a woman.

WOMAN OF THE RAIN

Her face, colours, shades.. I saw every detail of the image. I started to draw it, as if someone drove my hand over the paper. In fine hours I managed to finish it.”



The first purchaser was a lonely business woman, she hung it on the wall in her bedroom and after two weeks, Svetlana got a call late at night from the lady stating “Please take it back, I can’t sleep! It feels like there is someone else in my apartment besides me!! I even took it off the wall and hid it behind the cupboard, but I still have this weird feeling”

WOMAN OF THE RAIN

The second purchaser, a young man, bought the painting. He too couldn't stand it. He tried to return it to the artist without even taking his money back. He said he kept dreaming and complained that every night there was a shadow of the woman walking around. He stated that it was driving him mad and he was extremely afraid of it.



WOMAN OF THE RAIN

The third was a male, he was completely sceptical and didn't know what was rumoured to be happening with it at all but he quickly returned it when he started to see the lady in the painting's white eyes everywhere, he also claimed to have intense headaches while being in the room with it.

Many believe the painting is evil and is cursed but the artist herself disagrees and has a high regard for it. Svetlana still has optimistic thoughts about it - I'm sure that every picture is born for some particular person. I believe that for my "Woman" there is also a person. I understand that many of you don't need this grief in your eyes. It's just not an interior decoration. I'm sure there is someone who looks for it, as it looks for that someone.

WHODUNIT???

A Japanese ship was leaving the port and on its way to the open sea. The captain went to oil some parts of the ship and took his ring off so it wouldn't get damaged. He left it on the table next to his bunk. When he returned, it was missing. He had suspected three crew members could be guilty and asked them what they had been doing for the ten minutes that he had been gone.

The cook said, "I was in the kitchen preparing tonight's dinner."

The engineer said, "I was working in the engine room making sure everything was running smoothly."

WHODUNIT???

The seaman said, “I was on the mast correcting the flag because someone had attached it upside down by mistake.”

The captain immediately knew who it was.
How?



DO YOU REMEMBER THE TIME?

-Kanishka
SYBA

At first glance, myth and history appear to be complete opposites but myth is a narrative of origins, taking place in a primordial time. A time different than that of everyday reality. Whereas, history is a narrative of recent events, extending progressively to include events that are further in the past but that are, nonetheless, situated in human time.



This is one of the most common myths about the Pyramids of Giza. The rumour is thought to have been started by the Greek historian Herodotus.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE TIME?

He visited the site of the Great Pyramid in 450 BC and began reporting that slaves were building the pyramids after hearing stories from priests. However, all evidence now shows that the pyramids were built by well-fed, skilled labourers.

Although the Pyramids of Giza are usually referred to as the Great Pyramids, there is only one Great Pyramid. It is known as the Great Pyramid of Giza or the Pyramid of Cheops or Khufu: It is the largest pyramid of the three main pyramids in the Giza Necropolis. It is also the *only* one amongst the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World that has survived to this day.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE TIME?

One of the most surprising facts about the Pyramids of Giza for many people is that they aren't in the middle of the desert. Most of the pyramids stand close to the city of Giza right next to modern buildings, hotels and restaurants.

The Great Pyramid of Giza appears to have four sides. It is the only eight-sided Egyptian pyramid and this fascinating detail can only be seen from the air either at dawn or sunset on the spring and autumn equinoxes. This is when the sun casts shadows on the Great Pyramid that make all eight sides visible.

WHO AM I?

He was once a forensic psychiatrist, but now he idles away his time, and is friends with a criminal profiler, whom he helps solve crimes. He has something sinister up his sleeve, and in his kitchen. Can you guess who he is?

His goal was to achieve immortality, get rid of those pesky normal humans, to achieve complete dominance over both worlds. Also, he has no nose. Who is he?

He is one of the most powerful and dangerous Dark Wizards of all time, his goal being to establish a new world order in which Witches and Wizards ruled over Muggles, claiming that his actions were "for the greater good". He could also be considered Dumbledore's close friend, some people even say boyfriend. Can you guess who he is?

FIND THE KILLER



Answer:

The man with the cast.

There are 3 reasons to which makes this person most likely this killer.

Explanation:

Reason-1: The blood strain is on the left side of the dead man which means the killer is most likely a left-handed. The cashier and man with the cashier are both right-handed and other man has cast on right hand .

Reason-2: Why will a man with the cast go for buying shirts/coat? It Seems suspicious.

Reason-3: The man with the cast must be carrying the weapon inside the cast.

HERE ARE THE ANSWERS!

Answer to Decode the Mystery:

The pole was 5' long, but only the size of a quarter. The first time he breathed in, he breathed oxygen. When he exhaled, the air could not travel 5' before he breathed in again. He was just breathing what he exhaled. Before long, all he was breathing was carbon dioxide. He died of CO₂ poisoning. Dr. Miller was the one who told him to use the pole. However, he was knowledgeable about the human body and knew breathing only carbon dioxide would result in Alfred's death. His motive? The money in Alfred's will.

Answer to Whodunit:

It was clearly the seaman. It was a Japanese ship and a Japanese flag is white with a single red dot in the middle. It can't be hung upside down.

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