



Chapter 1: A Dangerous Offer

Geoffrey Auberon Carmody, a distinguished writer of crime novels, climbed out of the taxi with some difficulty. At his age, pub crawls which ended at discotheques, though great fun, tended to have a somewhat *detrimental* effect on his *equilibrium*. The early morning air was freezing cold, and the pavement was slippery with icy rain. Still, years of practice enabled Carmody to reach the door of his house with his dignity intact. Knowing that the only thing he needed at the moment was a good day's sleep, once inside he *staggered* directly upstairs. Had he been less preoccupied with safely climbing the stairs, he might have noticed a shadow moving in his living room. As it was, Carmody was *relieved* to finally reach his bed. Within seconds, he was fast asleep.

Übung 1 Lesen Sie weiter und setzen Sie die Verben in Klammern in die richtige Zeitform!

(decide, be, freeze, swallow, convince, meet, ache, awake)

When he (1.) _____, it (2.) _____ shortly after lunch-time. His head (3.) _____, and walking to the bathroom he felt *dizzy*. One look in the bathroom mirror (4.) _____ Carmody that social calls were out of question. He (5.) _____ a couple of aspirins and (6.) _____ to make some really strong coffee. Lots of it. He had just begun descending the stairs, when his eyes (7.) _____ an extraordinary sight. He (8.) _____ on the third step.



There, on his *landing*, lay a *pile* of *discarded* women's clothes. A black evening dress was carefully laid out, as if whoever had put it there hadn't wanted it to get wrinkled. Next to it lay silk stockings and expensive-looking undergarments, all *neatly* arranged. On top lay a single, black, high-heeled shoe. Of course, in the ordinary course of events, Carmody would have welcomed a woman of such *impeccable* taste undressing in his house, but he could not begin to imagine why she should have chosen the bottom of his stairs to do so. Whoever she was, though, he couldn't have thought of a more agreeable place for her to *allow* her exhibitionist instincts *free rein*. Unfortunately, Carmody *was* nearly *positive* he had come home alone. *Puzzled*, he decided to search downstairs for some answers.

ÜBUNG 2

Übung 2. Welches Wort ist das „schwarze Schaf“?

Unterstreichen Sie das nicht in die Reihe passende Wort!

- 1 mound, pile, stack, mind
2. night, afternoon, evening, midnight
3. impeccable, ferocious, perfect, flawless
4. exhibitionist, shy, introvert, timid
5. normal, ordinary, open, usual

What he found, however, was something even more *bewildering*. To be sure, after his activities the previous evening he would not have been surprised to see a few unusual things. A smiling pink elephant would have been absolutely normal. But the fact remained that despite his wide experience in the field, he had never yet hallucinated anything that came close to what he was seeing at that very moment. *Spread out* on his living room table, *glinting* in the winter light, was an assortment of delicately *crafted* jewels. Car-



mody saw about a dozen gold and silver rings softly shimmering. Next to them lay two *ornate* necklaces, half a dozen *pendants*, several earrings, pearls and a *jewel-encrusted* brooch. Carmody was no expert, but he thought these items looked genuine. It seemed that, for reasons he could not even begin to *fathom*, somebody's crown jewels had materialised in his living room.

Übung 3. Finden Sie das passende Gegenteil! Setzen Sie die richtige Ziffer ein!

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| 1. materialise | <input type="checkbox"/> | next |
| 2. expert | <input type="checkbox"/> | plain |
| 3. ornate | <input type="checkbox"/> | disappear |
| 4. common | <input type="checkbox"/> | amateur |
| 5. expected | <input type="checkbox"/> | bewildering |
| 6. previous | <input type="checkbox"/> | unusual |

Of the owner there was apparently no trace, which was something of a disappointment for Carmody since he knew where her clothes were. A quick check once again convinced Carmody that he was quite alone in the house. The windows were still closed and locked, and there was no sign that a break-in had taken place. Carmody could feel that he was beginning to lose his concentration.

I definitely need that coffee, he thought.

Half an hour later, he was sitting in his armchair with a large cup of coffee, thinking as hard as he could in his condition. He knew any reasonable person would have called the police. On the other hand, Carmody would have been *gravely offended* had anyone called him "reasonable" Moreover, he did not altogether like the idea of the police arriving at his house to find a hungover writer informing



them that in his living room he had just found a small fortune in jewellery which appeared to have been left behind by some unidentified high-class stripper. And what she had worn upon leaving Carmody's home was also a mystery, since she had left behind her evening clothes – perhaps she had decided that the winter air would be good for her skin, he thought. Or perhaps she had made off in one of his suits. Something told Carmody that despite its obvious literary potential, the police would not find this story the least bit amusing.

ÜBUNG 4 ! Übung 4. Lesen Sie weiter und fügen Sie die richtigen Präpositionen ein! (*in, in, in, into, of, of, at, to*)

He remained seated (1.) _____ his favourite armchair another few minutes, until the thought (2.) _____ calling Inspector Hudson, (3.) _____ Scotland Yard, popped into his head. He had called Hudson several times (4.) _____ the past, in order to get details (5.) _____ police methods and past crimes that might make his stories more realistic. He and Hudson had not exactly *hit it off*, however, possibly because one evening he had paid too much attention (6.) _____ Hudson's friend, Elvira. But perhaps he should call Hudson just the same. He reached (7.) _____ his pocket and pulled out his mobile phone. Carmody looked up Hudson's home number (8.) _____ his address book and dialled the number.