



## Murder in the Air

“I wouldn’t do that if I were you,” Tobias James warned Ian Brown, one of his long-time clients.

“I’ve listened to you long enough. It’s time for me to start running my own affairs,” replied Ian Brown angrily.

The line went dead.

A feeling of panic **struck** Tobias. Who else would Ian **persuade** to leave Future Trends Limited, the London financial services firm Tobias had started five years ago? His fingers raced through the contacts stored in his **PDA**.

Tobias was just about to make another call when his office door flew open. Paul Windsor, another long-time client, stormed in. Tobias’s secretary, Sarah, **rushed** in after him.

“I’m sorry, Mr James. I told Mr Windsor that you weren’t available.”

“It’s okay, Sarah. I can talk to Mr Windsor now.”

Sarah left the office, closing the door behind her.

Tobias rose from behind his desk. He tried to shake Paul’s hand.

“Paul, what can I do for you?”

Paul pushed him in the chest.

“You **scum**. You know what you can do for me. You can get my money back.”

Tobias raised his hands.



to strike

*hier:* ergreifen

to persuade

überzeugen

PDA

Organizer (Personal Digital Assistant)

to rush

eilen

scum

Abschaum



bailout

platter

to slam

Notverkauf

Servierplatte

(zu)schlagen

“Whoa, Paul! Calm down. What are you talking about?”

Paul pushed Tobias again.

“You know exactly what I’m talking about. I told you to sell my shares

and you didn’t do it straight away. I’ve lost thousands because you were waiting to collect your commission.”

“Paul, Paul, calm down, please. I know how you feel. I felt awful when I saw that we had sold too late. But it was bad timing. That’s all,” Tobias said calmly.

“Liar. How stupid do you think I am? You and your risk-taking. If you had followed my orders I would have made money. I know exactly what happened. You thought that the share prices would rise with the news of the **bailout**. Plus you probably got some kind of commission based on those shares. When you got my order you sat on it for as long as you could. When you finally sold the shares it was too late. You bastard. I’ll have your head served on a **platter**”

Paul Windsor hurried out of the office, **slamming** the door behind him.

**Exercise 1: Odd one out.** Welches Wort ist das „schwarze Schaf“? Unterstreichen Sie das nicht in die Reihe passende Wort!

1. wait rush run hurry
2. stomach heart lung toe
3. scum kind immoral bad
4. client customer buyer owner
5. bailout destruction aid money

Sarah watched Paul walk around the corner towards the lifts. When she could no longer see him, she rose and went to Tobias's office. Sarah tapped on the door, then opened it slightly. The distinctive smell of cigar smoke **lingered** in the air. Tobias was sitting at his desk, pressing keys on his PDA. His tie was **crooked** and his shirt **wrinkled**.

"Is it that bad?" Sarah asked.

"Why do you ask?"

"You've been smoking a cigar. You know you aren't supposed to smoke in the office," she replied.

"You know me and my risk-taking. Damn it, Sarah. They all made money because of me during the good times. Did they question any of my decisions then?" Tobias asked.

"No. Everyone knows your **reputation**."

"Exactly. And now they are **blaming** me for all of their losses."

"It's human nature to look for a **scapegoat**."

"At least you understand me. Sarah, will you marry me?"

"I think you already have too **many** women in your life. Which reminds me. Both your wife and Arabella Hornsby called," Sarah replied.

"I don't have time to call **them** back now. I'm meeting Ethan Smith for dinner. Maybe I can **manage** to keep at least one client today."

"Well, you can't go looking like **that**."

Tobias inspected his **rumpled** shirt.

"You're right. I didn't know Paul **had** such a **bad temper**. I have another shirt in the cupboard."

"Maybe you should wear another **tie**, too. That one never seems to bring you much luck."

"You can say that again," Tobias agreed.



to linger	verweilen
crooked	<i>hier:</i> zerknittert
wrinkled	faltig
reputation	Ruf
scapegoat	Sündenbock
rumpled	zerknittert
to have a bad temper	schlecht gelaunt sein

**Exercise 2: Unscramble the words.** Bringen Sie die Buchstaben in die richtige Reihenfolge und bilden Sie sinnvolle Wörter!

1. His tie was okcdero *crooked*.
2. His shirt was kwdirnel \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The smell of cigar smoke glendrie \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the air
4. People know your pretnitua0 \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Paul has a bad mretep \_\_\_\_\_.
6. It's human nature to look for a tcagsopae  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Five minutes later, Tobias walked out of his office wearing a fresh shirt and a different tie. He **stuffed** the tie he had been wearing earlier into his coat pocket.

"How's that?" he asked.

"Much better," Sarah replied.

"Look, I'll probably call in at Aristotle's, you know, in Soho, after seeing Ethan. Do you want to meet me there?"

"Thanks, but no thanks."

"If it's my wife you're worried about, there's no need," Tobias said.

"Is that why you're planning to go home wearing the same tie that you had on when you left the house this morning?"

"Just to be on the safe side. You know how **suspicious** you women are. Well Sarah, my dear, if you

change your mind. "



to stuff

stopfen

suspicious

argwöhnisch,  
misstrauisch