

There was great excitement at Brookwood police station. Inspector Garrick had received a telephone call from an informer. The man said that a gang intended to rob the main post office. He even told Inspector Garrick the date and time for which the robbery was planned. The Brookwood police were not used to serious crimes. Except for occasional cases of bicycle stealing, their peace was seldom disturbed. Rarely did anything more serious happen.



The crime was going to take place at two o'clock on market-day. The informer said that one of the gang would have a gun. This worried Garrick most of all. On market-days, the street near the post office was always crowded. There was a risk that someone could be killed. It was the most difficult problem that Garrick had ever had.

Inspector Garrick wanted to make sure the gang was caught. He made preparations carefully. He ordered his men to wear ordinary clothes so that some of them could mix with the people in the post office. Others had to wait in the street outside to prevent the gang from escaping. On the day that the robbery was to take place, all was ready. At two o'clock, a large black car was parked in front of the post office. Three men, with handkerchiefs over their faces, jumped out and ran into the post office. Two of them stayed by the door. The third went up to the counter and pulled out a gun. At this moment Garrick blew his whistle. The man standing at the counter immediately put the gun back in his pocket and pulled the handkerchief from his face. „Could I have a fifty pence stamp, please,“ he said.

„You will have to tell a better story than that to the judge!“ Garrick said. „And anyway, there's no parking in front of the post office. You are arrested.“

excitement: Aufregung
receive erhalten
intend beabsichtigen
rob (aus)rauben
used to gewöhnt
serious ernst
except ausgenommen

case Fall
occasional gelegentlich
disturb stören
take place stattfinden
worry ängstigen
crowded überfüllt
prevent verhüten

escape fliehen
handkerchief Taschentuch
counter Ladentisch
whistle Pfeife
immediately sofort