



The jewel thief, part 1

The Maharani loved parties, films and American cocktails and for the people of Jaipur her Fancy Dress party was one of the big social events of the year. Exactly 150 invitations would be sent to people from the town – the most prominent people in the fields of politics and administration, education, medicine, and business. The rest of the town enjoyed watching the guests arrive in their costumes. The Maharani also invited a small number of people who were in some way unusual either because of their jobs or something they had done. These people were always invited to a special cocktail party with the Maharani at the end of the evening. The special guests this year were five members of a Mumbai film crew who were making a film in Jaipur.

THE MAHARANI INDIRA MAHDLO OF JAIPUR INVITES YOU TO A FANCY DRESS PARTY IN THE GARDENS OF HER SUMMER PALACE IN JAIPUR AT 6 PM, 24TH MARCH.

I was also there, but not as a guest. My name is Dilip Pashanka and I'm a private detective. The insurance company says that whenever the Maharani wears her jewellery, a private detective must be there to protect it. This evening she was wearing a diamond tiara worth six lakh (lakh = 100.000) of rupees. I'm always glad when most of the guests go home and the Maharani and her few special guests then go inside the palace for cocktails. It makes my job much easier. The Maharani introduced me as an old friend and I was dressed as my hero Hercule Poirot – a costume, which suits my round, manly figure. As I walked around chatting with the film crew, I made sure they were who they were supposed to be and checked them off against my list.

NAME	JOB	COSTUME	CHECK
1. Sunil Mehta	actor	Blackbeard the pirate	✓
2. Urmila Desai	actress	Marilyn Monroe	✓
3. Mehda Paktar	animal trainer	Queen Victoria	✓
4. Vijay Tendulkar	scriptwriter	Oscar Wilde	✓
5. Bhalji Palekar	cameraman	Alfred Hitchcock	✓

All of the film crew except Mr Paktar had chosen costumes which suited them. Mr Paktar looked very strange as Queen Victoria, especially with a big fat cigar in his mouth! His dress was so wide that he had trouble getting through the door. The Maharani thought this was very funny. I thought it was suspicious. It was a strange choice of costume for a man and a wide dress wasn't very practical – unless he was hiding something under it! I made a note to check that later. I was talking to the beautiful Urmila Desai when all the lights suddenly went out. There were several gasps and the lovely Urmila found my hand and held it tightly. I heard footsteps and the sound of a door opening and closing. After another thirty seconds or so the lights came on again. "My tiara!" shouted the Maharani. "It's gone!"

I quickly checked all the windows of the room. They were all locked. I opened the door. Two bodyguards dressed as servants stood in front of the door. They told me that nobody had left the room. So the thief or thieves and the tiara must still be somewhere in the room. I made a quick sketch of the room and asked the guests to tell me where they had been standing when the lights went out.

Pete Oldham: Kriminell gut lesen – Englisch Klasse 8–10
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1. Are the following statements true (T), or false (F)? Correct the false statements.

- 1. This story takes place in Africa.
- 2. The Maharani has a fancy dress party every month.
- 3. She always invites local VIPs to her parties.
- 4. The film crew was from a big Hollywood studio.
- 5. Mr Paktar is a smoker.
- 6. Dilip Pashanka was also one of the Maharani's special guests.
- 7. Mr Pashanka is a thin man.

Corrections:

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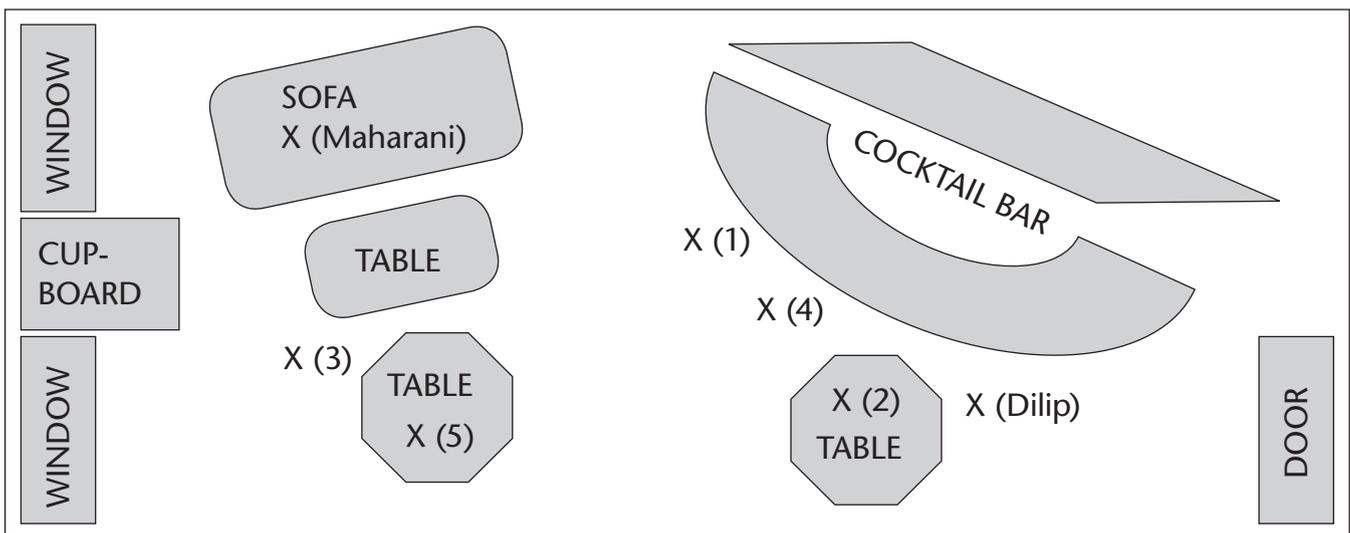
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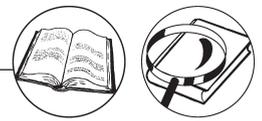


2. Who do you suspect? There are two clues in the text and one in the sketch. Can you find them? Discuss your ideas with a partner.



3. Who do you think stole the tiara and how? Discuss your ideas with a partner.





The jewel thief, part 2

The person I suspected was Medha Paktar, the animal trainer. If he had known that the Maharani would wear her tiara, he could have trained some animal to steal it. Perhaps he had brought the animal into the room under his wide dress. I asked the two bodyguards to step into the room and search Mr Paktar, who protested loudly. I didn't expect them to find anything, but I had to check. The bodyguards found nothing. Mr Paktar laughed at me and lit another cigar. I looked at the other guests. They all looked frightened and I didn't think they could hide an animal and a tiara under their costumes. The lovely Miss Desai smiled at me.

50 "Would you like to search me next?"

I smiled back and kissed her hand. "Perhaps later, if I may." There was nothing that she could hide under that costume! I looked around the room and pointed to the cupboard between the two windows. Mr Paktar stopped smiling. I asked the bodyguards to look inside. They found a strange monkey with big eyes. It had a bag around its neck with the tiara inside.

Mr Paktar ran for the door, but he couldn't get through it. The Maharani erupted into laughter and the other guests joined her.

"I never did like the fat so-and-so!" said Miss Desai, "or his smelly cigars."

60 "What an interesting evening," said the Maharani. "How about another cocktail? Do any of you know how to make a Harvey Wallbanger?"

We found out later that the animal was an owl monkey from South America and they can see very well in the dark. Mr Paktar must have had an accomplice in the palace. Someone had told him about the tiara and had switched off the lights. We never found out who it was and Mr Paktar wouldn't tell us. Well, you can't

65 win them all!



4. A quiz: Match the names (1–6) with the correct descriptions (A–F).

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| 1. Queen Victoria | A was a famous Hollywood film star. |
| 2. Oscar Wilde | B robbed ships in the Caribbean. |
| 3. Marilyn Monroe | C was also the Empress of India. |
| 4. Alfred Hitchcock | D was a fictional detective in stories by Agatha Christie. |
| 5. Blackbeard the pirate
(Edward Teach) | E was a famous author and poet. |
| 6. Hercule Poirot | F was a famous film director. |

1 , 2 , 3 , 4 , 5 , 6





5. Word building: These English words are similar to the German. Can you guess what the German words are without using a dictionary? Compare your answers with a partner afterwards.

- 1. jewel
- 2. diamond
- 3. ruby
- 4. pearl
- 5. sapphire
- 6. garnet
- 7. opal



6. Work with a partner. First read the definition of the underlined word. Then try to guess what this word is in German.

1. A tiara is usually made of silver or gold and decorated with jewels. It's worn on the head like a small crown.

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2. A bracelet is a piece of jewellery, which is worn around the wrist in Europe. In India bracelets can also be worn around an ankle.

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3. A necklace is worn around the neck. It can be a simple chain of silver or gold or several chains with pearls, jewels or beads.

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4. A brooch is a piece of jewellery with a pin on the back so that it can be fastened to a jacket or a blouse.

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A 'Harvey Wallbanger' is a cocktail made with vodka, Galliano, and orange juice.

