



A MODEL MURDER

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Chapter 1: A Weekend Away

Juliet Stubbs enters the kitchen and screams with *delight*.

“Oh, George, you remembered!” she cries.

“Of course,” replies her husband with a smile, “you *reminded me* every day last week.”

“What pretty flowers!” she continues, excited.

Exactly twenty-five years ago, Juliet Sprout married George Stubbs. Today is their silver *wedding anniversary*. Twenty-five white roses are standing in a new crystal vase on the breakfast table. There is also a silver envelope next to the teapot. Juliet smells the roses and looks nervously at the envelope.

“Open it,” he says, “it won’t bite.”

His wife picks up a knife and cuts the paper. George turns around and takes some bread from the toaster.

“Bath!” his wife *exclaims*. “I love Bath, it’s such a charming city!”

George *raises* his eyebrows. “Keep reading,” he says and takes some milk from the fridge.

She reads aloud a letter from a five-star hotel and looks at two tickets to the city’s famous *Roman Baths*.

“What’s wrong?” her husband asks when she stops talking.

“It’s perfect!” she cries, “Thank you so much. I love you.”

“I love you too, dear,” says George, laughing.

They kiss and sit down to eat, listening to the morning news on the radio. It is not very interesting, but Juliet has something to say about each report between mouthfuls of breakfast. George sits in silence; he sometimes smiles at his wife or *grunts* in agreement,



but his food interests him more than political scandal and *celebrity gossip*.

Less than an hour later, they are in the car on their way to Bath. As a police inspector, people imagine that Inspector George Stubbs is an organized man. In fact he is usually the opposite, a chaotic and forgetful person who loses his car keys almost every day. His wife is still surprised that he remembered their *wedding anniversary*. She is *delighted* that they are going somewhere special to celebrate.

They live in Devon, a beautiful part of south west England with low, green hills and wild moors. Although the countryside is full of pretty tourist attractions and peaceful walks, living in the country makes it more difficult to find enough time to visit a city and *enjoy* the culture it has to offer.

Cvičení 1: Čtěte a podtrhněte všech osm přídavných jmen!

Juliet calls her husband a “*culture vulture*”. He loves history, literature, classical music, museums, art and a good bottle of French wine. She usually has to follow him around *exhibitions* and old bookshops in the city. It is important to spend time together, though. George is always so busy at work these days that it is a *blessing* whenever he has free time. They do everything together, even if she would really prefer to shop for expensive clothes or visit the cinema.

“You can decide what we do today,” her husband says when their car is on the motorway. “We can go anywhere you want and do anything you want. You’re the boss.”

Juliet picks up the tourist brochure for the city of Bath and looks



once again at all of the pictures inside. Her husband is a very kind man indeed, she thinks.

“Well, we have to visit Bath *Abbey*, of course. It’s a special day for both of us, and I know you’ve wanted to see it for a long time,” she says. “Let’s go there first, then we can spend the rest of the afternoon in the shops, go out somewhere *posh* to eat and maybe see a musical tonight, if we can still get our hands on some tickets.”

George opens and closes his mouth without saying a word. He puts another sweet in his mouth.

“We can just eat at the hotel if it’s easier,” his wife says.

He laughs and says that anything at all is fine by him.

“It sounds like a long day,” he adds, “but I suppose we’ll get all the *rest* we need in the *Roman Baths* on Sunday, won’t we?”

“Yes, absolutely!” Juliet agrees. She looks through the brochure and finds the page with Bath’s most famous *sight*. “I think I could spend all day there. It’s a pity they don’t let the public use the old building, it looks so wonderful. But the new *thermal spa* looks just as beautiful. Have you seen this picture, George?”

“I’m trying to drive, Juliet!” he *complains* when his wife *waves* the brochure in front of his nose. “Yes, I’ve seen it, and it does look lovely. But please let me get us there alive!”

Juliet laughs and sits back in her seat. One of her favourite songs is just starting. She rolls the window down a little and begins to sing *at the top of her voice*.

Cvičení 2: Která z následujících výpovědí je pravdivá? Označte je správně ✓ nebo špatně – !

1. It is the Stubbs’ golden wedding anniversary.
2. Juliet opens the envelope with a knife.





3. George is an organized man.
4. Mr and Mrs Stubbs have the same interests.
5. Devon is in south east England.
6. The abbey is not the most famous sight in Bath.

Shortly before midday, George parks in front of the Malvern Hotel. His wife gets out of the car and looks up at the sky, then at the architecture of the building.

“Oh, George,” she says quietly, “isn’t it a *posh* hotel!”

“It’s very *posh*,” he replies and hands the car keys to the pageboy. Another young man is standing by the main entrance and welcomes the couple to the hotel. Moments later, while they are checking in, the pageboy returns with the Stubbs’ car keys and suitcase.

“You are a helpful young man,” says Juliet thankfully.

She puts a handful of sweets in his hand instead of a *tip*. Most guests give him either a £2 coin or a £5 note. He smiles politely, turns around and looks unhappy as he puts the sweets into his pocket.

After a short *rest* and a cup of tea, Mr and Mrs Stubbs leave the hotel and begin their tour of Bath with a visit to the *abbey*. It is a short walk up Cheap Street under a clear, blue sky. There are a lot of shoppers about, but it is not too *crowded*. They are soon standing at the enormous West Front, which *reminds* George of Turner’s early painting of the *abbey*. He is silent; even his wife stops talking. They look at the detailed *carvings* and *impressive* windows.

“Oh my God, is this a *cute* church or is this a *cute* church?” says a loud, American voice that makes George and Juliet both turn around in surprise.

The speaker is a tall, blonde woman in a jacket and a short, black skirt. George notices that she has long, *slim* legs and shoes with very high heels. She is attractive, too, he thinks. The woman takes



off her sunglasses and walks up to the two statues either side of the church entrance.

“Who are these?” she asks, still speaking *incredibly* loudly.

George thinks she is talking to herself.

Two well-dressed men then pass Mr and Mrs Stubbs and stand next to the American. They look up and down at the statues, look across at each other and then *shrug*, almost *irritated*.

George *approaches* the three tourists with a smile and explains that St. Peter is on the left, and St. Paul on the right.

“You can see that the sculptor made Paul too large,” he continues, “which is why the *halo* is sitting on his head like a dinner plate.”

He does not normally talk to strangers, but he is in a good *mood* and decides to share his knowledge. Besides, he likes meeting foreigners and has nothing against attractive American ladies either. His wife is busy reading the signs around the *abbey* entrance.

“This is the third church to be built in this place,” George says. All three strangers look at him with interest. “The French pulled down the original church after the invasion in 1066. It was ruined again twice and what you see here is from the early seventeenth century.”

The two men begin talking to each other quietly. The woman sees them, rolls her eyes and says something to George.

“I’m sorry?” he says, not listening. He is looking for his wife.

“I said you know a lot about this place. It’s *impressive*.”

“Oh, I...,” George turns a little red and does not know what to say.

Cvičení 3: Čtěte dál a doplňte slovesa ve správném tvaru!

His wife (1. return) _____ and *insists* that everybody
(2. go) _____ on a tour together.



“Look how well you (3. get) _____ along!” she says. As a very open woman, Juliet finds it easy (4. introduce) _____ herself and her clever husband while they are waiting for the next tour to start at midday. The American lady is just as talkative and (5. tell) _____ her all about herself and her two friends, Jack and John. They (6. be) _____ all from Los Angeles, California. This *impresses* Juliet very much, who (7. watch) _____ a lot of television programmes from the United States. But she (8. wonder) _____ if Scarlet Rose can be the woman’s real name.

“Why, yes, it is!” answers Scarlet. “Rose is my daddy’s surname, naturally, but I am called Scarlet because I was such a red baby. My parents say that was a sign. They knew I was going to have a life full of drama and *passion* when I was so loud as a child.”

“Only as a child?” asks John. “I think the whole church knows who you are now.”

Scarlet *swears* at John. The other man, Jack, is taking photographs and does not seem to notice the angry conversation that follows between them.

Mr and Mrs Stubbs *pretend* not to notice and look closely at some postcards of the building. Juliet is still listening to the *argument*, so says nothing to her husband, who is moving his eyebrows up and down. He is *examining* carefully some scenes from the Old Testament that are on the windows.

The tour *eventually* begins. Jack continues to take countless photo-



graphs with his large camera; John tries to make funny or interesting comments to Scarlet, but she does not want to hear them. Instead, she speaks endlessly to Mr and Mrs Stubbs. George is *embarrassed* to be in a church with someone who has such a loud voice. His wife, on the other hand, is not very interested in the building. She asks Scarlet a lot of questions and finds out all about her career as a model when she was younger. She has some fascinating stories about her glamorous American lifestyle. They fall to the back of the group because they are so busy talking. Everyone else is walking up some steps to the tower, but they decide to stay behind. Scarlet is wearing stilettos and Juliet *is scared of heights*. They sit down together on a *pew* at the back of the hall.

Several minutes later, those on the tour come back down the *narrow staircase*. George feels someone push his arm and steps aside. A young man wearing a cap pushes past him and then Jack, who almost loses his camera when the young man pushes him away. “Hey!” says Jack. “Mind where you’re going, kid!”

The man is not part of the tour. He seems to be in a hurry to get down from the tower. John is at the front of the line and turns around to see what is happening. The man looks him in the eye with hate and pushes him down the last eight steps. He then runs past Scarlet and Juliet and disappears through the West Front door. The two women run to John, who is lying face down on the stone floor, his head twisted to one side. He does not say anything. Scarlet screams. Jack puts his camera in George’s hands and hurries to John. He *kneels* down by his bleeding face and softly puts a hand on his head.

“Ouch... that hurt!” says John slowly.

Everyone smiles in *relief*. Luckily, John is not badly *injured*. His nose is bleeding, but he can stand up and walk. He is in a good *mood* before too long.



The five do not take part in the end of the tour. Juliet takes her handbag from the *pew* and puts her hand on Scarlet's arm.

"I'm glad your friend is well," she says. "What a terrible thing to do, pushing someone down the stairs and running away like that."

"I don't think it was an accident," John answers. "He gave me a *nasty* look before he pushed me."

George *raises* his eyebrows but says nothing.

"Hmm," says Scarlet, in thought. "Oh! My handbag! My things!"

"I thought you had it," says Juliet. "It wasn't on the *pew*."

Everybody looks inside and outside the *abbey* for Scarlet's expensive designer handbag. They ask the *staff* at the *abbey* and people around the town square, but nobody knows where it is.

"You should *report* it missing to the police," George says. "If you are sure you had it inside the *abbey*, then *I'm afraid* it has probably been stolen."

"Oh dear – I think you could be right," Scarlet replies. "I forgot all about it when my John was lying on the floor."

She is holding his hand and *gently* kissing his face.

"You've both been very kind," says Jack to Mr and Mrs Stubbs, "but I think we should let you go now. We'll go to the police station this afternoon."

CVIČENÍ 4
Cvičení 4: Dosadte správnou předložku!
(about, to (2x), down, at, of, in)

1. Scarlet swears _____ John inside the church.
2. Juliet listens _____ their argument.
3. Jack takes a lot of photographs _____ the building.
4. Juliet is not very interested _____ Bath Abbey.



5. A stranger pushes John _____ the stairs.
6. Scarlet forgets _____ her handbag when John is injured.
7. George tells Scarlet to report the theft _____ the police.

Mr and Mrs Stubbs wish them well and begin a four-hour tour of the shops in Bath. George's wife knows exactly where she wants to go and *manages* to spend a lot of money in the small, old boutiques on York Street and even more money in the city's large shopping centre.

They are tired afterwards but there is enough time to leave their shopping at the hotel, eat out at an Italian restaurant and go to see a musical at the Theatre Royal at the end of the day. They arrive back at the hotel just before the bar closes and have a glass of whisky each before bed.

"What a lovely day," says Juliet, "and a perfect way to end it!"

They *toast to* twenty-five years of happy *marriage*.

Chapter 2: A Mysterious Murder

The next morning, Juliet pulls back the curtain at half past ten. The sun shines on her husband's face and wakes him up. He has no idea it is already so late.

"Don't worry," she says, "we can ask room service to bring us a late breakfast. Today is all about relaxing, remember."

"I know, I know," her husband replies and puts on his glasses. "I'm not used to waking up so late, though. Did you hear someone shouting in the middle of the night, by the way? Another loud American. I think it was at about two o'clock."

"No, dear," answers Juliet, "I didn't hear anything."