

## Chapter 12

### The Mysterious Affair at Styles

A . Answer these questions :-

Q1.How is the Mysterious Affair at Styles ' presented by the press ?

A1. It was full of tragedy , glaring headlines , sandwiched biographies of every member of the household , subtle innuendos , the usual familiar tag about the police having the clue, seized with avidity on the crime in fashionable life .

Q2. Was Dorcas a loyal servant ? Give reasons .

A2. Yes , she was of the old fashioned servant who made the two detectives aware of a dressing -up box in the attic ,full of old clothes and fancy dresses and probably containing an obscure green dress .She also mentioned that from time to time John and Lawrence Cavendish called "a dress -up night".

Q3. Why did Hercule Poirot feel that the culprit was intelligent ?

A3. The culprit was intelligent because he chose the one place in the house to hide the black beard where its presence would not be remarked .

Q4. Who was Miss Howard ? What did she know about the crime ?

A4. Miss Howard was Emily's companion . She admitted that it wasn't Alfred Inglethorp who bought the medicine at the chemist's shop.

Q5. What were Hercule Poirot criteria for an ally ?

A5. An ally should be somebody who was not associated with them in any way.

Q6. How did Poirot convince Miss Howard to think on the right track ?

A6. By trying to make her recall a conversation that took place on the day of his friend's arrival .

Q7. Why was Hastings not a suitable ally ?

A7. Hastings was not a suitable ally because he had no instincts.

B. Answer these questions with reference to context :-

1.Hastings,this affair is very deep .

a) Who said these words ?

a) Hercule Poirot said these words .

b) Why did he think that the affair was very deep ?

b) The magnificent black beard which he had found was quite new, not used very often .

c)What was the enigma surrounding the affair ?

c) It was trimmed and cut exactly the shape of Mr. Inglethorp and Poirot found one or two snipped hairs .

2. There , mon ami ,you will be of great assistance to me .

a) Who expected whom to be a great assistance ?

a) Hercule Poirot thought Hastings to be a great assistance .

b) Why did he require his assistance ?

b) He required his assistance because Hastings had been staying at Styles as a guest and he might prove extremely helpful in solving the case . It was impossible to do it on his own.

c) Why did the speaker approve of him ?

c) He would be a great support to him and was a very reliable person .

3. I don't know what put such a wild - such a dreadful -idea into my head !

a) Who is the speaker ?

a) Miss Howard

b) What idea is the speaker talking about ?

b) The idea of affirming that if a crime had been committed and if anyone she loved had been hurt ,she felt certain that she would know by instinct who the criminal was even if she was unable to prove it .

c) What impact did it have on the case ?

c) It gave enough hints and the right direction to work towards a common end to the case .

\*\*\*\*\*