

THE LAST

MURDER



**MADE BY- VIREN, NAMIT, SIDDHANT, GANESH
AND UNNATI**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Hood ma'am for giving us the opportunity to let us write the story on our own.

This activity taught us the pain taken by the writers to write a best-seller book. This also taught us the use of words in different parts of the story. Thus we all thank Hood ma'am for assigning this activity.

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1) The Murders In The Hotel

“It’s all over” said a voice from outside the room.

It was followed by a loud sound in room number 402. The hotel authorities rushed to check to see what had happened. It was too late as the murder had taken place. The body was kept in the steam bath. They heard another blood curling scream in the hotel from room number 317. This time it was a woman’s. They rushed into that room and one more murder had taken place. This time it was a woman’s. the manager of the 7 star Prime Meridian was so tensed that he called the FBI. The FBI most famous officer Michael Mantle was also with them. The blue eyed man was a keen detective. He quickly understood that the dead man in room no. 402 was a heart patient that is why somebody had hacked into the system of the steam bath and first he raised the temperature to a very great extent and then dropped it down very fast. This was the reason why the man had

been dead. In room no. 317 a woman was found lying dead and she was stabbed in her back

Michael Mantle nicknamed MM rushed to see Xenith Priest a young blonde haired detective. Xenith is in his interschool basketball match. He was playing from his college Riverdale High school. The match was tied at 40 to 40 points. The brown eyed boy was taking sturdy steps towards the basket. He came more near to the basket. He jumped and AHOY! He scored the basket in the last 15 seconds of the match. Xenny felt a little dizzy after scoring the basket.

The team members picked him up and shouted

“EAST OR WEST XENITH IS THE BEST”. After that he felt a little better. Just then the young boy heard a familiar voice searching him and saying “Xenith Priest where are you?”

It was none other than MM that is Michael Mantle.

“I was looking out for you from so much time Xenny,” said the FBI officer.

“I have come to ask you to help me in a dual murder case. Come we will go to a restaurant, there I will tell you more about it.”

When they reached the restaurant MM started telling him about the incident, “Today in the morning two people, one man and the other woman were found dead in the Prime Meridian hotel in room no. 402 and 317 respectively. The man was a heart patient. Thus he died because of the temperature change. The second murder was of a woman. She was stabbed in her back. We have to check their rooms. We will rush now, come”.

2) SEARCH THOROUGHLY

They went straight to the 7 star hotel. The manager directed them to the woman's room. Her name was Elsie Patrick. The woman was lying on the floor on her back and the knife had been stabbed in her back. They checked the room thoroughly. They found nothing.

The young boy told MM "This is ridiculous, no clues found, no fingerprints are also missing".

At this MM concluded, "This must be a work of a very skillful person".

Then they proceeded towards room no. 402 where a red-haired Cody Ponting was lying in the steam-bath wearing his blue bathrobe. As the FBI officer said that he was dead due to a heart attack. They checked the rooms thoroughly. There also they didn't find anything. They gave up and were going to leave the room just then Xenny felt something wrong. He went back and saw himself in the mirror. The only thing which he could see

is a cupboard. As they were about to leave, he saw some whitish substance shining below the cupboard. He bent down and found that it was half burnt paper and there was a box. They took it to the 'FORENSIC LAB' there it was found that the box contained drugs and '26231822' was scribbled on the half burnt paper. The same time Xenith Priest advised MM that they leave the paper on which acid was written behind and start investigating the drug racket.

“What are you doing over here?” said a voice from behind Xenith.

They froze in their tracks.

3) THE ENCOUNTER

He was Adam. He was Xenith's best friend who had helped him in many mysteries. He also advised him to concentrate first on the drug racket as it was a very serious issue. They decided to continue the investigation the next day. The next day they checked all the drug records but they did not find any one with the name of ACID. So they went to the famous American detective Sam Coral as he had busted many drug rackets.

He told them "Yes I do remember a man's whose name was 26231822".

"But we have checked all the records and nobody's name is 26231822." replied Adam.

"I have told you whatever I know. Please go." replied the old detective angrily.

They left the room quietly.

Xenith asked MM "I have heard that Sam Coral was in jail for 5 years."

MM replied “You are right. He also is one of the drug sellers.”

All the blood seemed to drain out of their face when they heard this. “WHAT!” exclaimed Xenith and Adam.

Some of the names they found were Carbon, Acid, and Cocaine etc.

It could be some body’s telephone number. They tried to call this number but this number wasnot existing. Feeling tired after a long day they went to park and sat down.

Just then Xenith exclaimed “It must be some kind of a code. We just have to manipulate the value. If we look at it like A=1, B=2 ... then it would be ZWRV.”

“This is ridiculous. It doesn’t make any sense.” said MM.

“It might be some other code like if it is Z=1, Y=2, X=3.... then it will be aacccid, ACID. The same gang about which we read today. Let’s go”, said Xenith with a new excitement.

They checked the address and went and to the address. There they found a man sitting on a chair and having beer.

They asked about the drug racket, “Do you know a company named ACID.”

He replied, “Yes. I do know”

“Can you tell us more about it”, requested Xenith.

“Yes, sure. I was the head of the company” replied the man.

“How were you caught?” asked Adam.

“I was busted by that bastard Sam Coral” the man angrily replied.

“I would provide drugs to 3 people – John Armstrong, Justin Lodge and Jack Cooper. But now after 5 years I don’t know anything about them.” Replied the man sadly.

Xenith, Adam and Michael quietly left the room. They thought that he was speaking the truth. They didn't ask him any more questions.

"We should meet these people. They might tell us more." Adam said expressing his opinion.

4) So many Murders

So they decided to continue their investigation the next day.

The next day they first visited Jack Cooper. When they checked his crime record, they found that he was an unmarried man and was addicted to beer, wine and smoking. Every night he would go to 'Bistro Club' and drink and smoke. They later reached his house. They were all shocked to find out that Jack was dead 6 months ago. They asked his family members that how did this happen? They told him that he was shot dead when he was staying at Prime Meridian hotel".

Xenith pulled MM and Adam aside and then asked "Isn't this the same hotel where the doctor and the junior artiste were killed?"

"Yes, you are right." replied the FBI officer.

They left the place and next decided to visit Justin Lodge. When they checked his crime record, it said that he was a married man, not addicted to drinking or smoking. When they reached his house they were again shocked as even Justin Lodge was dead. He was dead as someone had put poison in his food when he had gone to eat in 'Prime Meridian' hotel. Both were murdered but drugs were still being circulated under their name. Then they checked the records of John Armstrong. To investigate further, they went to his house. To their surprise, John Armstrong was alive. When they reached his house, they were told that he is staying at the 'Prime Meridian'. They were very astonished to hear this.

Xenith told Adam, "We will register him as the number one suspect. The second suspect is the owner of ACID. The third suspect is the hotel authority."

5) Tricky Murderer

After that they went to the hotel. There they saw a huge crowd in front of the hotel. As they made their way through the crowd, they heard somebody shouting, “He is DEAD!”

They rushed to the crime spot only to find out that the room in which the murder had taken place was locked from outside with a key. They went inside with the master key. But what they found out next was a very astonishing fact. The room’s key was in his pocket and the other one with the hotel manager.

“So how could anyone have entered a closed room without breaking the lock or the door? The hotel window has grills, so the possibility of entering through the windows is eliminated.” said MM. They also found a very fine thread but they could not make heads or tails of it. Then they understood that it was a sealed room trick.

“In that, a fine thread is taken and tied to a key and the other end is tied to a needle, the needle is then passed through the victims pocket and the key and needle are taken outside and the room. Then it is locked with a key and the needle is pulled and the key is slid from under the door into the victims pocket and then the thread is broken and so the door is locked and the key is inside the victims pocket.” said Xenny with a zing.

Then they examined the dead body to find for more clues. They find a thread on the dead body.

“Don’t let anyone go out of this hotel. Manager, please come here and tell me what type of thread is this.” Xenith asked politely with a new zeal in his voice.

“This is the thread from the waiter’s uniform”, exclaimed the manager.

“Fast, the waiter wouldn’t have gone far as the murder just took place 5 minutes ago, we should rush”, exclaimed Adam.

They ran outside the room to find out where he had gone. They checked the whole of the hotel to search for the waiter.

“We have checked everywhere, but the waiter is nowhere to be found”, said Michael.

“No the hallway is left, which leads to garden and then outside the hotel.” said Xenny.

They ran towards the hallway and were surprised to see a waiter unconscious without his uniform. As they went in the front, they found the waiter’s clothes dumped in the dustbin. The waiter’s name was Moose and he was one of the most trusted waiters in the hotel. Xenny left Moose with MM and he and Adam rushed to see if anybody was there outside. Xenny saw some kind of footprints in the lawn on the wet mud. He quickly took the measurements of the footprints. He thought that it were of the murderer. He also took some sample of mud near the footprints. They even checked the toilets. As they opened the

door of the 'Gents' toilet they found a familiar figure. He was none other than the famous American Detective Sam Coral. Seeing him Xenith was so surprised that he dropped the polythene which contained the mud near footprints. As he bent down to take the bag, he saw similar type of mud attached to Sam's shoes as he had found near the lawn. He became suspicious on Sam Coral. He quickly pulled Adam towards himself and whispered whatever he felt about the great detective.

6) Murderer Caught

Adam also accepted what Xenith said but he told him, “We can’t simply accuse him of the murder as that would be wrong. We will set a trap for him for which I have a brilliant idea.”

The next day Adam requested the postman to deliver a letter to Sam Coral’s house. It read as follows-

THE MURDER AT PRIME MERIDIAN HOTEL OF THE JUNIOR ARTISTE WAS A FAKE. HER MAKE UP WOMAN HAD GONE INTO HER ROOM AS ELSIE. THUS HER MAKE UP LADY WAS KILLED. THIS CASE IS SOLVED AS ELSIE IS TELLING US THE INFORMATION BY POSTING THE LETTER IN THE POST BOX NEAR THE CITY STATION.

“After reading this letter, he will come. I am very sure about it.” said Adam with full confidence.

They waited at the post box from 2 o'clock. They had asked a girl to disguise and come like Elsie. She did her job well and came exactly at 3 o'clock and posted a blank letter in the letter box.

They waited a lot but Sam didn't come.

"He will not come. It is no use waiting here and wasting our time" MM told both of them.

"He will come MM. I have full confidence in him" said Adam

"Shhh" exclaimed Xenith. "I can hear footsteps. Maybe he is Sam."

The young detective was right. He was none other than Sam Coral. They all stood quietly behind the pole.

"He has come near the post box and now he may break open the box", Adam said.

Yes, Adam was right. Sam Coral first saw around if anybody was in sight. Then he quietly broke open the

lock of the post box. The same moment Xenith, Adam and Michael jumped on him and caught hold of him.

7) Confessing

They took him to the FBI head-quarters.

They started questioning him, “Why did you misguide us?” asked MM with anger in his voice.

“I didn’t want you to find me” said Sam with a gruff voice.

“Why did you kill Justin, Jack and John?” asked Adam.

Sam said “Because they were drug smugglers an....”

Xenith interrupted him by saying “Even you are a drug smuggler and you were in jail for 5 years. So they must be your friends”

“Justin, Jack and John with the help of the junior artiste and the quack doctor had falsely accused me of smuggling drugs as I had busted their racket. They were furious on me thus they planned it out in such a way that they would put me in the jail for many years

to get rid of me.” said the detective with a tear in his eye.

“I knew that they always lived in that hotel as their drug smuggling takes place there. So I managed to bribe a waiter in that hotel. And whenever any one of my rivals would live in that hotel, he would give his clothes to me to disguise myself as a waiter.” said the detective.

“And till the case is concerned you boys have done a very good job. I never thought that you could solve this case”, said Sam with a tears in both of his eyes.

“I am proud of you.” Said the old detective with a smile on his face.

