

Reading

Read the story.

In his study at 221B Baker Street, Sherlock Holmes was reading the newspaper.

CITY NEWS

Thursday, 18th June 1881

Local news

Jewellery shop robbery: Police arrest man but diamonds missing

Yesterday at 10 a.m. a gunman with a handkerchief over his face stole diamonds worth £1 million from *Jewellery Palace*. A man was running away when the police arrived. They caught him but there were no diamonds in his bag. It was empty. The man claimed he was not the robber.

According to the jewellery shop assistant, the police have arrested the right man.

‘Although I didn’t see his face, I recognised his clothes and bag. He is the robber!’ he said. However, the most important evidence — the diamonds — is missing.

‘Interesting,’ said Holmes. He was a clever detective and wanted to help the police. He went to the jewellery shop. There was a newspaper stand across the road and Holmes talked to the owner. ‘What were you doing at ten o’clock yesterday?’ he asked. ‘I was folding newspapers when I heard a gunshot,’ the man answered. ‘Then I saw a man with a handkerchief over his face. He was carrying a bag in one hand and a gun in the other.’



‘What happened next?’ asked Holmes. ‘The robber ran into a blind beggar and fell over,’ the man replied. ‘But then he got up and ran away. He was running past the fruit stall when the police caught him.’



‘Where’s the beggar now?’ Holmes asked. The newspaper seller answered, ‘I don’t know, but he lives under the bridge.’

There was nobody under the bridge but Holmes found the beggar’s bed made of cardboard boxes. Next to the bed were some sunglasses, a white stick and a pile of newspapers. Holmes picked up a newspaper. A half-finished crossword puzzle caught his eye. He smiled and went to make a call to the police station. ‘Let the man go,’ he said. ‘Follow him. He’ll meet a beggar. Arrest them both and you’ll find the diamonds.’



How did Sherlock Holmes solve the crime?