

'In fact, you started work the same day that the Gilbertson necklace arrived,' he said.

'Yes, I suppose I did,' I said.

'Don't you *know*?' he shouted.

I was becoming nervous. 'Yes, all right, I started the day the necklace arrived,' I said.

'And now it's gone,' he said quietly.

He made it seem as if the two things went together – I started work here, then the necklace was stolen.

'I didn't take it,' I told him.

He looked at me thoughtfully. 'There have been lots of valuable things on display in this museum,' he said, 'and they have always been safe. Then you come to work at the museum and a valuable necklace is taken. Strange, don't you think?'

'I'm not a thief!' I said.

The office door opened and the other detective came into the room. Chief Inspector Craven looked up at him.

'Yes, Todd?' he said.

'I've questioned the visitors and the museum attendants,' said the other man. 'They all say they didn't go into the room where the necklace was on display. The "closed" sign was on the door.'

'But the door wasn't locked, according to the security guard,' said the Chief Inspector. 'It would be easy enough to go in.'

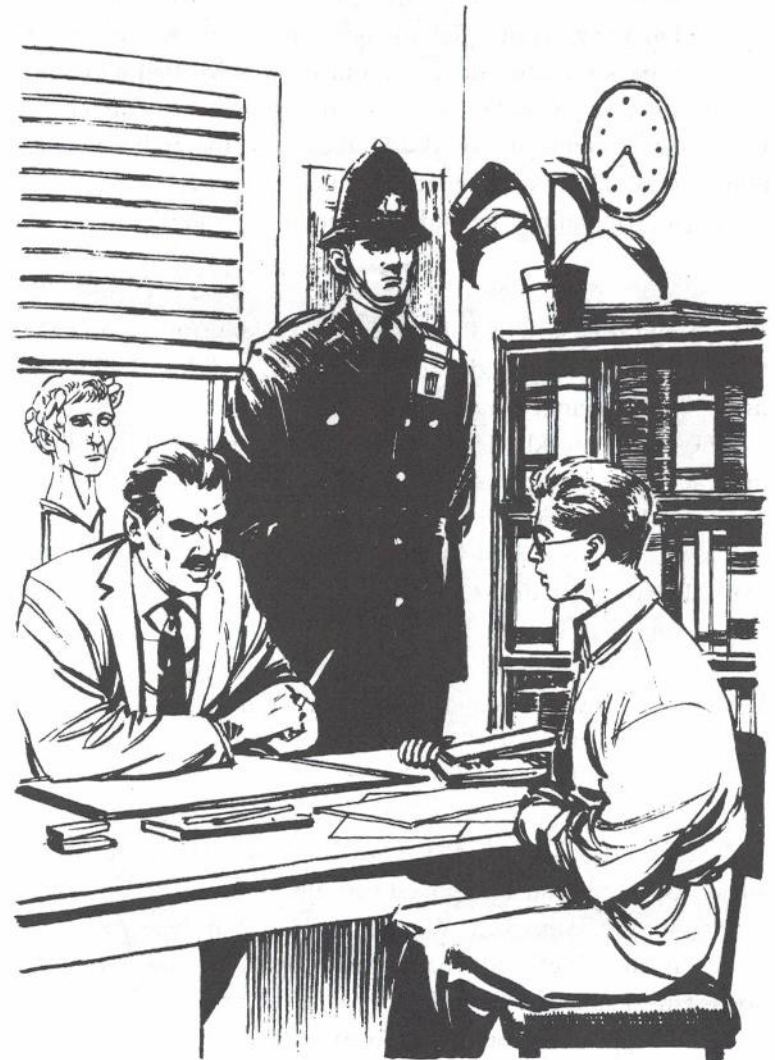
'All the visitors have said they'll be searched,' said Todd. 'If they have the necklace, we'll find it.'

'Not if they were able to hide it somewhere in the museum,' said Chief Inspector Craven. 'Search the other rooms they were able to get into.'

'OK,' said the other man. He didn't look pleased. 'But I'm sure the thief got away before the museum doors were locked.'

The Chief Inspector looked annoyed. 'Just do it, Inspector.'

Inspector Todd went out of the little office and Chief Inspector



*'... you started work at the museum the same day that the Gilbertson necklace arrived,' he said.*